



SPORTS PAGE 8
Horns extend winning streak to 21 with formidable pitching staff

LIFE&ARTS PAGE 14
Outlawed form of meditation stresses moral health

NEWS PAGE 6
Professor looks at Obama's effect on Texas politics

TODAY

Calendar

Cinco de Mayo
Harry Ransom Center hosts a "Cinco de Mayo" Poetry on the Plaza event. HRC, noon to 1 p.m.

End with a splash
Splash Bash celebrates the end of the year with swimming, lunch and snacks. Gregory Gym Aquatic Complex, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Sharing stories
Nobel laureate and UT alumnus John Coetzee will speak about his time in Austin and his career as a writer. LBJ Auditorium, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Mexican-American
A panel discussion looks at the rich but often complicated history of Texas and Mexico from 1810 to 2010. Mexican American Cultural Center, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Music of the wind
Performance by the Butler School of Music Wind Ensemble, Bates Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Dance, dance
Longhorn Salsa offers free dance lessons. Texas Union Quadrangle Room, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Today in history

In 1921
Coco Chanel introduces the legendary fragrance Chanel No. 5.

Inside

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Millionaire game developer shares dream of going into space **page 6**

In Opinion:
Columnist takes a stance against students grading students **page 4**

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Cedar Park sports franchise shows off its hockey 'stars' **page 8**

In Life&Arts:
H-Spot wants to show you "How Players Do It" **page 14**



Quote to note

"If she isn't squirming or slapping your hand away, take that as your cue to slip in."

— **Narrator of "How Players Do It"** on anal sex

LIFE&ARTS PAGE 14

Repurposing a downtown icon



Photos by Peyton McGee | Daily Texan Staff

Above, the Seaholm Power Plant in downtown Austin could be sold in as little as six months. Though the plant will maintain its exterior appearance, redeveloping the interior of the plant and the land around it will make renting the space to local organizations much less affordable. **Below**, the plant shut down 21 years ago but is expected to be converted into a multi-use district.

Firm to buy defunct, historic Seaholm Power Plant amid criticism

By Alex Geiser
Daily Texan Staff

Marked by its intimidating chimneys and art deco design, the industrial concrete building that sits on the north side of Lady Bird Lake will keep its iconic appearance. The inside of the decommissioned Seaholm Power Plant, however, will not.

The power plant and the 7.8 acres on which it sits could be sold in as little as six months — a short time compared to the 21 years it has been shut down — to be redeveloped into a multi-use district that would include condos, a hotel and retail space, said John Rosato, principal of Southwest Strategies Group, the commercial real estate company buying the Seaholm District development. The plant itself will be turned into office space, retail shops and restaurants on the bottom levels and a special event center on the upper level.



PLANT continues on page 2

Liberal arts chairs side with benefits for partners

By Audrey White
Daily Texan Staff

The 21 College of Liberal Arts department chairs officially pledged their support for domestic partnership benefits at the University in a resolution signed Monday.

UT faculty, staff, students and administrators have grappled with questions about the benefits, which would offer expanded insurance options to the partners of GLBT faculty and staff.

Daniela Bini, chairwoman of the Italian and French department, headed the push to encourage other chairs to sign the resolution. She said she was glad the chairs were unanimous in their support of the resolution.

"UT had to start somewhere, and it is understandable that we would start in the College of Liberal Arts because most of us doing humanities research and teaching face these issues and discuss them and consider them maybe more than in other colleges," she said.

Offering the benefits is both an ethical issue and a practical one, Bini said.

"There are candidates who have not accepted positions because we don't have these benefits," she said. "If we want to be competitive with our peer institutions, we have to have something like this."

According to a report created by the Pride and Equity Faculty and Staff Association in April 2008, eight out of 10 peer institutions provide domestic partnership benefits. UT lawyers have previously said the University is tied by state insurance codes and cannot offer benefits to partners of GLBT faculty and staff.

However, PEFSA member Dana Cloud said the University could create a blanket-benefits program

BENEFITS continues on page 2

Former solider appointed as next UT student regent

By Shabab Siddiqui
Daily Texan Staff

Kyle Kalkwarf may have a future as a doctor and a past in the army, but for the present, he will serve in one of the most prestigious student positions in the state.

Gov. Rick Perry appointed Kalkwarf, a third-year medical student at the UT Health Sciences Center at San Antonio, on Monday to serve as the fifth student regent on the UT System Board of Regents for the 2010-11 school year.

"On behalf of the board, I would like to congratulate Kyle for his appointment to the post of student regent," board chairwoman Colleen McHugh said in a statement. "We look forward to working with him as we continue to chart a course for excellence at each of our 15 institutions."

REGENTS continues on page 2

University groups to work for climate, carbon plan

By Audrey White
Daily Texan Staff

In an effort to expand its commitment to sustainability, the University is developing a climate action plan that may include a goal of carbon neutrality.

Currently, University groups, including the Campus Environmental Center and the president's Sustainability Steering Committee are working with consultants to consider its carbon, energy, water and other resource use to develop a comprehensive and realistic plan for lowering its waste and carbon output and increase overall efficiency, sustainability director Jim Walker said.

Carbon neutrality means that an entity offsets all carbon production by reducing emissions, purchasing carbon equalizers and initiating carbon-neutral projects.

CLIMATE continues on page 2

Mathematics professor receives award for excellence in teaching

Faculty member given \$5,000 for dedication to teaching profession

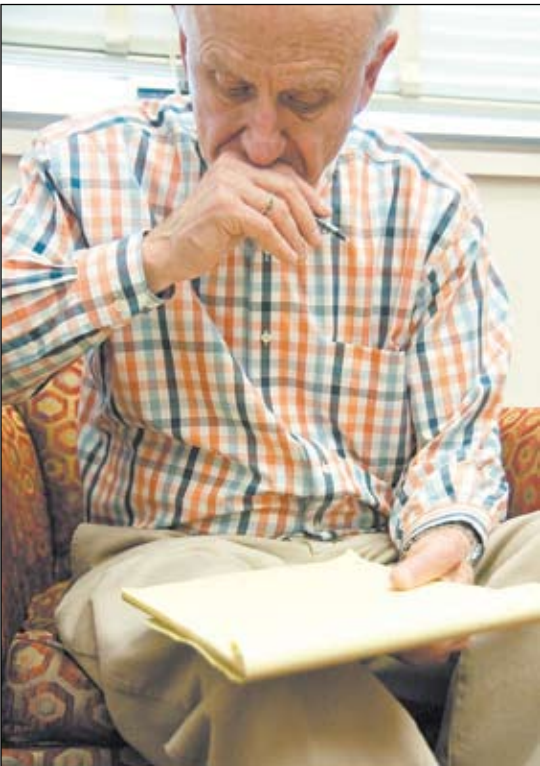
By Priscilla Pelli
Daily Texan Staff

A University faculty member was among 15 professors across the state to receive an award for excellence in teaching.

Mathematics professor James Vick was the only professor at UT to receive the 2010 Piper Professor Award from the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation. The foundation, based in San Antonio, awards \$5,000 annually to professors in Texas for outstanding scholarly achievement and dedication to the teaching profession. The award was officially announced Monday.

Vick said he knew he was nominated in the fall but that the final selection came as a complete surprise to him.

"Being nominated by the University was something I was very proud of because I know there are great teachers here on campus being considered, but I felt very good



Danielle Villasana | Daily Texan Staff

Mathematics professor James Vick was awarded \$5,000 for teaching excellence by the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation. Vick was among 15 professors who received the Piper Professor Award.

AWARD continues on page 2

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TODAY'S WEATHER

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Low
63

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HOUSE OF MIRRORS



Rene Huynh | Daily Texan Staff

A student walks past the Red McCombs School of Business on Tuesday afternoon. The McCombs undergraduate business program was ranked No. 10 in BusinessWeek in March.

REGENTS: Regent-elect hopes to increase student involvement

From page 1

The creation of a student regent position for each of the state's 10 public university systems' board of regents was signed into law in 2005, with the first regent appointed for the 2006-07 school year. The student is appointed by the governor for a one-year term and has all the responsibilities and privileges of the other regents — except for the right to vote.

UT System students interested in the position applied at the university level in December. The applications were sent to system officials, who selected applications that were then sent to the governor's office. Kalkwarf, who could not be reached for comment, emerged as the finalist among five other applications that were considered by the governor's office.

Kalkwarf, who hails from San Antonio, completed his undergraduate education at the U.S. Military Academy. While in the army from 2003 until 2007, he served as a tank-platoon leader in Iraq and an aide-de-camp — or personal assistant — to a commanding general in Kuwait. He currently serves on the Texas Army National Guard as a lieutenant captain in San Antonio while attending school. Kalkwarf is joined by Andrew Cobos of the University of Houston's Board of Regents as West Point graduates appointed to be student regents this year.

Kalkwarf also serves as president of his medical school graduating class and as a member of the UT System Student Advisory Council.

According to Kalkwarf's application for the position, ob-

tained by The Daily Texan through the Texas Public Information Act, he identifies recruiting and retaining top faculty members, implementing honor codes at universities and establishing greater channels for communication between the student regent and students across the system as his three main priorities.

On his application, Kalkwarf highlights a situation during his time in the Army, when he was asked a question by his general and did not know the answer.

"[The general said to me], 'Kyle, you must always think ahead and not be afraid to ask difficult questions. Senior leaders must know those answers so they can make the best possible decisions,'" Kalkwarf said in his personal statement. "Since then, I have followed his advice, and I will continue to ask difficult questions for students throughout the System while providing information and recommendations to decision-makers."

Kalkwarf will replace Karim Meijer, a fourth-year medical student at UT Southwestern Medical School and a UT alumnus. Meijer said he would advise the new regent to be aware of his special role.

"The opportunity to lead the University of Texas System is a wonderful experience — but one that should come with respect and humility for the position," Meijer said. "Where many regents have diverse backgrounds and specialties in many arenas, you should focus on your specialty, which is students."

The Board of Regents next meets May 12-13, which will be Meijer's last meeting as student regent.

PLANT: Student groups doubt affordability of renting space

From page 1

The Texas Travesty, KVRX and Canvas for a Cause held an art, comedy and music show Friday at the plant, which is still city-owned. The three student groups doubt the possibility of having another show like Friday's after the property falls into the hands of the developers.

"Renovating this place and making it look nicer will make it more expensive to rent," said Holly Griffin, the show's organizer and a UT radio-television-film senior.

Griffin, who founded Canvas for a Cause, a nonprofit UT student organization focused on increasing community engagement in the visual arts, said she was expecting to pay much more than the \$500 rental fee. For the event, the organizations had to pay for a fire marshal, an event permit and insurance, in addition to providing their own generators since there is no electricity in the decommissioned plant. Despite this, Griffin said the venue was affordable, but added that it may not remain so for much longer.

"[After the renovations, it will be geared toward a higher class, definitely not a student organization who doesn't have a lot of money," she said. "It will definitely change the scope of things."

The historical power plant, built in the 1950s, was named after Walter Seaholm in 1960. Seaholm, who graduated with an electrical engineering degree from UT in 1920, began his career with the city in 1922 as superintendent of the Electric Department. In his 33 years working for Austin, Seaholm helped guide the water and power utilities through the Great Depression and the Colorado River flood in the '30s.

The plant shut down in 1989 after its technology was deemed obsolete. The City Council approved the plant's decommission in 1996, and Austin Energy began the decommissioning process in 1999. The process, which includes replacing the roof, removing equipment and site cleanup, is not yet complete.

After viewing proposals, the city selected the team led by Southwest Strategies Group in 2005 to sign an exclusive negotiation agreement that prevented the city from looking at other proposals for the land. According to the agreement, the company will purchase the land as soon as the city finishes remaining work on the site, which includes environmental cleanup. After three years, the City Council approved the company's master plan for redevelopment and reuse of the Seaholm District. The redevelopment is expected to bring in more than 200 jobs and more than \$2 million a year in tax revenue, according to the plan.

While the city continues cleaning the site, it has been renting the power plant out to different entities, including the UT organizations from Friday's event. The first event was a Rare Magazine-sponsored Austin City Limits Music Festival afterparty in October. Since then, the facility has been rented out to various organizations, including MTV, and is currently on lease to Paramount Pictures.

The space will be available to rent out until it is sold, and the building will be available to rent out for events after renovation, Rosato said.

"We want whatever the market bears," he said. "If the market has a demand for downtown residential living, that's really good for the city, financially. The more density you have downtown, the less urban sprawl you have, which is better for the environment."

But Ken Altes, founder of Friends of Seaholm and a UT graduate, said the city's decision to sell the plant shows the city officials' lack of vision and interest in community concerns. Additionally, Altes said there is no certainty as to what it will mean to continue leasing the power plant to organizations and companies for events.

"We want all the development around Seaholm to complement it," Altes said. "Now Seaholm is in the service of all the other developments. It is a sellout. We thought it had the potential to be world-class — a terribly exciting place. It just got perverted."

CLIMATE: Students push for fast changes

From page 1

Hundreds of universities across the country have made carbon-neutrality commitments in the last few years, and Walker said this goal will likely be an important element of any climate action plan. However, he said there are no current plans to sign on to the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, a treaty that more than 600 college and university presidents have signed.

"A lot of Universities have responded to the president's carbon commitment and selected a date, like 2050, as a goal for carbon neutrality, and then they figure out what strategies might work to do that," Walker said. "UT-Austin is taking a different approach, saying 'What's our carbon output? What's our risk?' Over the summer and the fall, we'll continue the campus conversation about what strategies

might work for UT, and then we will develop a timeline."

Many of the universities that have signed carbon-neutrality pledges, similar to the university presidents' commitment, have found challenges in developing long-term plans.

"Everybody who pledges this grapples with achievability," said John Gardner, the associate vice president for campus sustainability at Boise State University. "There are things to do, and they all cost money. It's a challenge, but there are solutions."

Student Government passed a resolution Tuesday to support a carbon-neutrality plan proposed by the Campus Environmental Center, a student organization that works directly with UT facilities management. The resolution calls for the University to consider a commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2033, the University's 150-year anniversary.

"It is a progressive and ambi-

tious date for UT to strive for, and I think UT is capable of it," said Andrew Townsend, one of the assistant directors of sustainability for the center. "Students are supposed to be progressive, and we want to send a mandate to the Tower that we want to do this as quickly as possible."

The center will work with the steering committee led by President William Powers Jr. to continue exploring UT's overall climate initiatives, Townsend said. He said he plans to continue working with a diverse group of students to develop interest and perspective. That goal was inspired in part by former center member Max Rodriguez, who died in March.

"He spoke with me multiple times about the importance of letting this project serve to be a real voice to the students," Townsend said. "That's what Max was about, getting as many students involved in this process as possible."

BENEFITS: Resolution to be submitted to UT president

From page 1

that would allow faculty and staff to select any additional person to extend benefits to, including a partner or elderly parent.

"The idea that they are bound by law is a bit disingenuous be-

cause there are ways to work within the law," Cloud said. "Beyond that, when a law is immoral, upholding it is also immoral. Someone has to take a lead, and who else besides the leaders?"

College of Liberal Arts Dean Randy Diehl is in full support of

the resolution and will submit it to President William Powers Jr., college spokesman Gary Susswein said.

Cloud said she was confident that such a strong push from the college will give Powers the backing he needs to offer a public ex-

pression of support for benefits.

"The support of all these chairs gives him some cover, gives him a basis for making this argument," Cloud said. "I believe his coming out publicly would exert the kind of moral leadership that is required in this case."

AWARD: Student applauds professor for accommodating learning styles

From page 1

about that decision," he said.

Vick also said he admires the foundation for supporting teachers in their endeavors and knows this award will have a positive impact on University students.

"It's just a very admirable thing, that the foundation supports teachers around the state," he said. "I think for the foundation to encourage faculty to excel at teaching is something that is very valuable for the academic community."

Vick joined the College of Natural Sciences faculty in 1970 as a professor in the Department of Mathematics. In 1978, he was named associate dean of the Office of Academic and Student Affairs in the College of Natural Sciences and was appointed vice president for student affairs in 1989. He held that position until 2005, when he decided to return to teaching.

Mathematics department chairman William Beckner said Vick has had a positive impact on thousands of students throughout his 40 years of teaching and has met all the standards of excellence a professor should achieve.

"Vick exemplifies the finest in teaching at the University of Tex-

as at Austin," Beckner said. "It's almost a perfect sense of what a university professor should be. He is a member of the faculty who has touched all bases — in research, service and excellence in the classroom."

Katherine Taylor, a Plan II and Western civilization sophomore, is currently taking Vick's Plan II mathematics course.

"What's great about Professor Vick is that he is the one who adapts to students," Taylor said. "The class is for those that aren't 'math-y' or into the subject matter, and he realizes that coming in, so he'll spend a lot of time answering questions in five different ways. He'll change his method to try to answer your questions."

Taylor also said she hopes that with Vick receiving the award, all professors can learn from and follow his methods.

"[The award] fits Professor Vick very well," Taylor said. "He'll try several different ways to explain one thing, and I think that's something teachers across the University should take from this award and, most importantly, learn from him."

THE DAILY TEXAN

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NATION BRIEFLY

Times Square bomber caught trying to board New York plane

NEW YORK — Faisal Shahzad, a naturalized U.S. citizen who recently spent five months in Pakistan, was arrested on terrorism and weapons of mass destruction charges for trying to blow up the crude gasoline-and-propane bomb amid tourists and theatergoers Saturday evening.

He was in custody after being hauled off a Dubai-bound plane at Kennedy Airport that he had been able to board Monday night despite being placed on the federal “no-fly” list. Authorities had planned to arrest Shahzad, who had been under constant watch from mid-afternoon, at his Connecticut home, but lost track of him.

Because Customs and Border Protection agents were on the lookout for Shahzad, they recognized his name on a passenger manifest and ordered the flight stopped so they could arrest him.

Attorney General Eric Holder said Shahzad has been providing valuable information to investigators as they sought to determine the scope of the plot. A court hearing for him was canceled Tuesday in part because of his continuing cooperation.

According to the criminal complaint filed in federal court in Manhattan, Shahzad confessed to buying the SUV, rigging it with a homemade bomb and driving it into Times Square. The complaint says he admitted to receiving bomb-making training in Waziristan, Pakistan, a region where the Pakistani Taliban operates with near-impunity.

The complaint charged Shahzad with trying to detonate a weapon of mass destruction, attempted car bombing and obstructing interstate and foreign commerce by trying to kill and maim U.S. citizens.

In Pakistan, authorities said they had detained several people in connection with the bombing attempt, although the FBI said it had no confirmation that these arrests were relevant to the case.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg said the arrest should not be as used as an excuse for anti-Muslim actions.

— *The Associated Press*



Nikolas Giakoumidis | Associated Press

Greek protesters unfurl banners over the defensive walls of the ancient Acropolis to protest harsh new austerity measures as strikes began across the country on Tuesday.

Greek bailout inspires angry citizens to protest

By Nicholas Paphitis
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Angry Greek unionists took to the streets Tuesday to protest harsh austerity measures imposed under an international bailout to save Greece from looming bankruptcy, while financial markets were far from assured that the €110 billion in promised loans could douse Europe’s smoldering sovereign debt crisis.

About 4,000 striking teachers and students marched in Athens to protest the cuts, carrying black flags, while some scuffled with police. Earlier, about 100 Communist Party supporters broke through the gates of the Acropolis, the city’s chief ancient monument, and hung banners in Greek and English

reading “Peoples of Europe Rise Up,” to the bemusement of tourists.

The cutbacks were announced on Sunday, as a precondition for the loans from the International Monetary Fund and the other 15 EU countries using the euro.

Yet market reaction to the bailout deal was “lukewarm at best,” said analyst Mitul Kotecha at Credit Agricole CIB Research.

Euro-zone governments ran large deficits during the recession and financial crisis of the past two years. Fears that their economies will not grow fast enough to enable them to pay those debts have led markets to fear they will default.

As a result, bond investors demand higher and higher rates of interest to lend to

what are increasingly viewed as risky borrowers.

EU spokesman Amadeu Altafaj Tardio said the funds will be available on time, despite the complexities involved in 15 countries having to approve the deal.

Greece’s center-left government submitted draft legislation to lawmakers to save €30 billion — the country’s current budget deficit — through 2012.

The new Greek measures will cut deeper into pay for the country’s estimated 750,000 civil servants, reduce all pensions and further hike consumer taxes. State employees, including school teachers and hospital workers, began a 48-hour strike Tuesday, which led to several domestic flights by Greece’s Olympic Air and Aegean Airlines being canceled.

Gay clergymen welcomed back to Lutheran church

By Kate Brumback
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — A gay Atlanta pastor and his partner who have been at the center of a battle over the treatment of gay clergy by the nation’s largest Lutheran denomination are being reinstated to the denomination’s clergy roster, church officials announced Tuesday.

The Rev. Bradley Schmeling and his partner, the Rev. Darin Easler, have been approved for reinstatement, the Chicago-based Evangelical Lutheran Church in America said in a news release. The approval came roughly eight months after the denomination voted to allow gays and lesbians in committed relationships to serve as clergy, and just weeks after the ELCA’s church council officially revised the church’s policy on gay ministers.

Schmeling, who serves as pastor of St. John’s Lutheran Church

in Atlanta, was removed from the church’s clergy roster in 2007 for being in a same-sex relationship with Easler. A disciplinary committee ruled that Schmeling was violating an ELCA policy regarding the sexual conduct of pastors.

Easler said he left United Redeemer Lutheran Church in Zumbrota, Minn., in 2003 because he disagreed with the church’s policy and also because he wanted to minister to people in a hospital and hospice setting.

Easler was removed from the clergy roster in 2006 after having been without a parish for three years, the church said.

Schmeling said the reinstatement is good news for others as well.

“I’m happy for the many people who always hoped to be ordained as pastors now have an open pathway before them,” he said.



Jenni Girtman | Associated Press

Pastor Bradley Schmeling, left, and Pastor Darin Easler are seen Tuesday at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Atlanta.



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HORNS UP, HORNS DOWN



Weighing in on how UT uses resources

The UT System Board of Regents will be present to hear public comments on two proposed plans for the development of the Brackenridge Tract, a 500-acre property owned by UT, on Thursday, May 13.

The tract currently houses the Brackenridge Field Laboratory, graduate student housing and the Lions Municipal Golf Course.

In 2006, the regents hired a New York-based architecture and urban design firm to create a plan for the 350 acres of undeveloped land. The firm presented two plans to the regents last summer.

Both emphasize turning the area into a dense commercial and residential area to create revenue to support the University.

We have followed the Brackenridge Tract saga with concern. While we agree that the tract may be underutilized, given the overcrowding of UT's main campus, it is imperative that the tract serve the academic purposes of the University.

We are glad to hear that the committee of regents considering the proposals is soliciting public input.

Attend the meeting and give your input on May 13 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Ashbel Smith Hall, 201 W. Seventh St.



Students defaulting on student loans

The cost of higher education is significantly hurting an unacceptably high number of graduates who are not making the money they expected to make when entering school.

Students are defaulting on loans at increasingly higher rates, according to information released by the Education Department yesterday.

The data, based on the percentage of borrowers who started paying off their loans in the 2008 fiscal year and have since defaulted, shows that 7.2 percent, or approximately one out of every 14 borrowers, defaulted, compared to the 2007 rate of 6.7 percent and the 2005 rate of 5.2 percent.

Students who borrowed through banks were significantly more likely to default than those in the competing direct-loan program, with 7.8 and 4.9 percent defaulting, respectively.

While higher default rates are distressing, it is encouraging that a lower percentage of students in the direct-loan program are defaulting, as recent federal legislation cut bank-based student loans.

However, both programs saw higher overall default rates than they did in 2007, when 7.2 percent of those with bank-based loans and 4.8 of those with direct loans defaulted, according to Inside Higher Ed.

According to Forbes, defaulting generally occurs when a student hasn't made a payment in 270 days.

Possible consequences for defaulting on student loans include having loans turned over to a collection agency, crippling credit score decreases and being barred from obtaining or renewing certain professional licenses.



Student Government giving back

The Student Government executive board announced the creation of a Student Government Executive Board Scholarship in the SG newsletter yesterday.

Members of the executive board are voluntarily cutting their monthly stipends to create a \$4,000 scholarship.

Under the 2008 budget, the president and vice president received \$6,840 stipends in addition to \$5,200 tuition allotments, while other members of the executive board received \$3,420 stipends.

As long as SG works to serve the student body, it is reasonable to allocate a moderate amount of money to SG leaders in order to ensure that people from all backgrounds are able to serve in the time-consuming positions without holding additional employment.

However, when possible, reducing personal stipends in order to return money to students is a noble and effective way to give back.

It is encouraging to see SG leaders doing their part to make college more affordable, if only for a single student.

It is also notable the SG-hosted annual Longhorn Run raised \$50,000 for social justice projects on campus last Saturday.

We hope SG continues to address the financial pressures on campus with the same consideration and success throughout the coming year.

GALLERY



Don't outsource grading to students



By Joshua Avelar
Daily Texan Columnist

It's that time of the year when students grab their calculators, find their class syllabus in a disheveled stack of papers and look up their grades online to see exactly how well they need to perform on their final exams.

You know the line: "If I can get a [enter number grade] on the final, then I'll end up with a [enter letter grade]."

Though we invest so much in them, letter grades have come under harsh scrutiny time and time again by educators, administrators and students alike.

Despite the criticism, letter grades still remain an extremely important aspect of academic evaluation.

And while the current system is far from perfect, reform must be well thought out. One professor developed a way of assessing letter grades that I hope will never catch on elsewhere.

Cathy Davidson, professor of English at Duke, experimented with a new grading system this academic year for her class, "This is Your Brain on the Internet." In Davidson's class, students' grades are in the hands of their classmates.

The students were evaluated on the basis of whether or not his or her completed assignments were up to par, based on the judgement not of their professor but rather of their fellow students in the class.

"I can't think of a more meaningless, superficial, cynical way to evaluate learning in a class on new modes of digital thinking — including rethinking evaluation — than by assigning

a grade," Davidson said. "Top-down grading by the prof turns learning — which should be a deep pleasure, setting up for a lifetime of curiosity — into a crass competition."

A crass competition? Isn't that the point of college? Competition is key in the academic world. Thousands of those draped in caps and gowns later this month will be — or already have been — denied admission to grad-

Competition is key in the academic world. Thousands of those draped in caps and gowns later this month will be — or already have been — denied admission to graduate school because of sub-par grades.

uate school as a result of possessing sub-par grades. Professors across the nation are competing against one another to discover the next great scientific factoid or governmental theory. Furthermore, my many unemployed, recently graduated friends — and the thousands of others in the same situation — would be quick to testify to the hyper-competitive nature of

the workforce at this time.

I have accrued a mountain of debt to ensure that I learn something about the functions of government and the practices of journalism from people who are actually experts in the field, and I'm sure most Duke students' debts upon graduation will be much larger than my own.

A professor deferring the role of evaluation to the students in the class is dangerous on many levels. Either a student's peers will be tight-knit and favorably biased toward his or her work or, most likely, will be ultra-competitive and unfavorably biased toward his or her own work.

Has every single professor in the history of higher education evaluated all students' grades justly and without bias? Of course not, and my collegiate experience has not been exempt from professor grading faux pas.

But it has always been a comfort to know that my grades were being determined by someone who actually knew the material very well — much better than my classmates and myself.

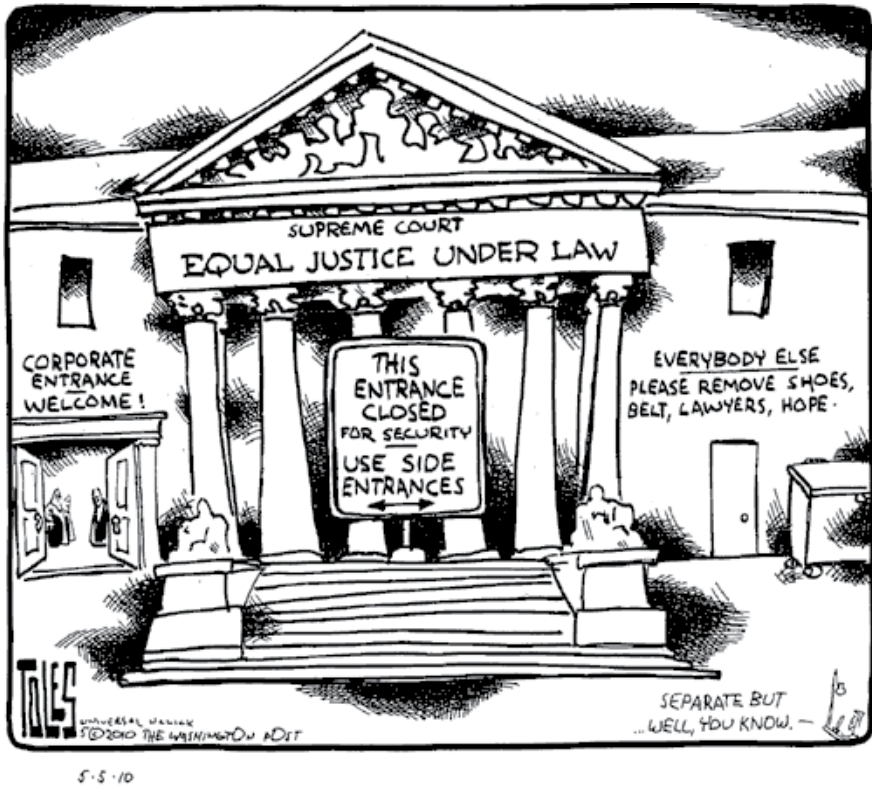
Davidson told *InsideHigherEd.com* that she has worked hard to keep up with the students' evaluations and progress, which only makes her decision to defer her grading responsibilities to students seem even more senseless.

The letter grades we work for and receive in college are a big part of our lives, and their consequences can follow us until the day we die.

They are vulnerable to devaluation as is, so leaving them in the hands of untrained students is the worst possible trend institutions of higher learning could possibly follow in regards to grading.

Avelar is a government and journalism senior.

GALLERY



THE FIRING LINE

A scientific imbalance

I am writing in response to the recent article, "Diets aimed at fighting autism 'flawed.'" The notion of combating autism with specialized diets has been under large scrutiny for a long time, and the work discussed in the article serves as an update to this debate. I'm very glad that The Daily Texan chose to report on this — all too often we see that "complementary and alternative" medicines and treatments get the front page, while science that highlights flaws in these results is neglected.

However, I take issue with the close of the article. The media is often under pressure to present "balanced" reporting — which I believe is a good thing. The key question, however, is what "balanced reporting" actually is. It is very easy to interpret this as "reporting both sides of the story equally," and while this may sound good in theory, in practice, both sides of an argument may not be inherently equal. Media can very easily create a false balance — elevating the perception a weak, unscientific and/or poorly supported argument by treating it as equal to good, well-supported arguments.

In this spirit, the Texan chose to end the article with an anecdote of a parent with an autistic child. Although I feel compassion for the parent, and I am sure their intentions are sincere, the Texan created a false balance by starting with a science-based argument and ending with a layperson's opinion. An emotionally driven personal opinion is not a retort to decades of scientific, peer-reviewed research. Although the Texan may not have intended to equate the two, tacking that anecdote on the end of an otherwise informative article only furthers confusion about what scientific evidence actually means. I hope in future scientific articles, Texan reporters will keep this in mind and consider consulting further experts in the field instead of adding a requisite "tale from the other side."

— Chris Lindner
Astronomy graduate student

SUBMIT A COLUMN

The editorial board welcomes guest columns. Columns must be between 200 and 700 words. Send columns to editor@dailytexanonline.com. The Texan reserves the right to edit all columns for clarity and liability.

LEGALESE

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Game developer discusses dream of space tourism

Film documents voyage to International Space Station, capsule return

By Madeeha Khurshed
Daily Texan Staff
A gaming millionaire who became the first American second-generation space traveler shared his experiences of outer space on campus after the screening of his documentary on Tuesday.

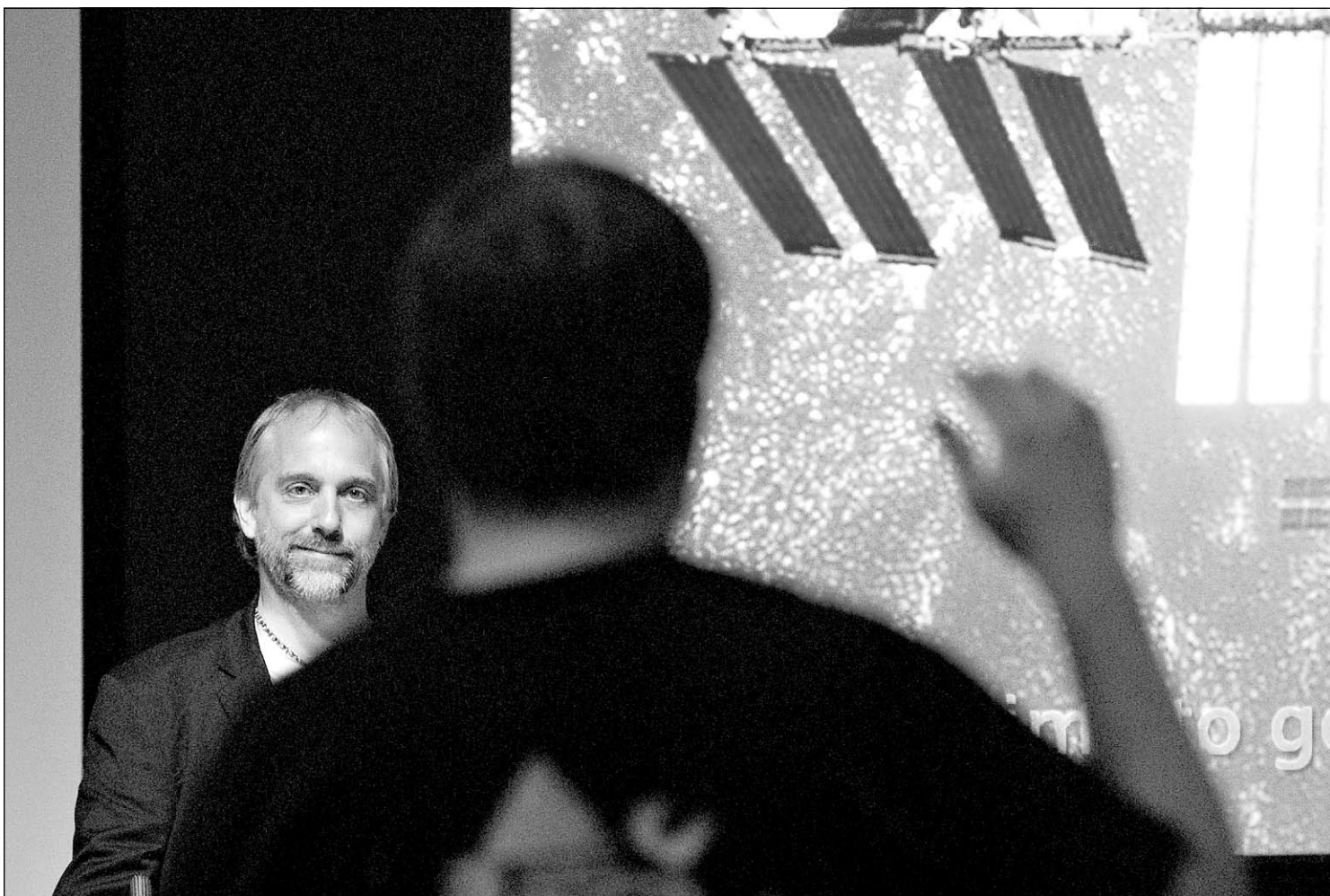
Video game developer and entrepreneur Richard Garriott, whose father was an astronaut, introduced the film that captured his journey as a private space tourist and answered questions from audience members in the Applied Computational Engineering and Sciences Building. The event, hosted by the UT chapter of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, included a screening of the 90-minute documentary that debuted during South By Southwest illustrating the efforts that culminated in his 12-day trip to the International

Space Station in 2008, and a brief presentation that covered the recent advancements in space and Garriott's visions for the future of space travel for civilians.

The film, titled "Richard Garriott: Man on a Mission," encompassed Garriott's experiences from his childhood as he grew up with an uncanny knack for developing video games in an environment of astronauts. Although his near-sighted vision disqualified him from being an astronaut early in his life, a few decades and an online-gaming dynasty later, he was the first American second-generation space traveler.

Before he could travel into space, he had to go through rigorous training and medical procedures, including emergency-survival training. The return was the riskiest part because of the danger of entering the Earth's atmosphere in a tiny capsule.

The film was the first to capture a return to Earth from space in a capsule.



Richard Garriott, a millionaire game developer, answers questions after a documentary of his private journey into space that cost \$30 million.
Danielle Villasana | Daily Texan Staff

Being a civilian, Garriott had to pay a sum of \$30 million for the research and development required to enable an ordinary person to travel privately into space onboard a Russian Soyuz rocket.

"The film is very inspiring

for people who have a dream and real determination," said Amanda Brown, associate director for development in the Cockrell School of Engineering. "Instead of joining NASA and becoming an astronaut, he went a different way to make

his dream possible." Since his return, Garriott has been investing in companies that intend to make space travel affordable someday for ordinary people, and not just astronauts, Brown said. Garriott spent a few years as

an electrical engineering major at UT before dropping out to pursue a career in video game development. He is now one of the co-founders of Portalarium Inc., a computer game development firm that was formed in 2009.

Obama's 2008 win may boost chances for Texas Democrats



Bruno Morlan | Daily Texan Staff
University of Houston political science professor Richard Murray talks about the effects that President Barack Obama's election had on Texas' political landscape at Batts Hall on Tuesday afternoon.

Minority vote to increase party's support across the state, professor says

By Collin Eaton
Daily Texan Staff
For both Texas Republican and Democratic candidates to win elections in the future, both parties must begin to make adjustments in a shifting political landscape caused by demographic changes throughout the state, said a visiting political science professor Tuesday at Batts Hall.

Richard Murray, a University of Houston political science professor and director of the UH Survey Research Institute, said that in the 1990s, some political prognosticators were correct to resign themselves to the fact that Texas would remain a red state for decades. But dramatic increases in minority votes and the 2008 candidacy of Barack Obama may give Democrats more momentum in coming years, he said.

"With Obama at the top of the ticket, Democrats substantially recovered Latino counties," he said. "This is a small segment of the state electorate — it's only about 8 percent. But because it's different politically, it's impor-

tant to look at, and the Democrats are going to have a future in statewide politics going forward for the next 10 or 20 years. They've clearly got to do better with this segment than they did when Bush was president."

Murray said future generations of politicians in Texas will need to account for increased minority votes, which, depending on the issues, may swing their votes to either party. This ability to shift politically may affect the Republican Party's hold on Texas in the future.

Murray's research looked at how the 250 Texas counties voted in 2008 compared to 2004 and 2000, Harris County's ethnically homogenous urban voting precincts and exit polling data from the elections to determine Obama's effect on Texas' voting.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Sen. John McCain won Texas with 55.5 percent while Obama won 43.8 percent. Despite Obama's statewide loss, he narrowed the Democratic Party's gap after Sen. John Kerry lost Texas with 38.3 percent of Texans' votes in 2004 to former President George W. Bush's 61.2 percent.

Texas has the second-largest share of 2001-10 electoral votes,

according to the Federal Election Commission. Texas' growing population boosted its electoral share past New York's, which had a larger share than Texas in 1991-2000.

"Texas stands out as a unique red island among these largely populated and heavy electoral-vote states in that it did not vote for Mr. Obama," Murray said.

Murray said one reason why Texas is still red is the 110 rural counties, constituting 32 percent of the statewide vote, that reflect a strain of conservatism with a racist element. Obama fared more poorly than John Kerry in these counties despite being a much stronger candidate, Murray said.

But the bottom line for Democrats in Texas is an improvement, he said.

"Obama might have helped Democrats a little bit in state elections where they have a chance of getting beaten less badly," he said. "It's fun this year because Democrats have the best candidate they can imagine to test this out — Bill White, who is without a doubt the whitest guy in Texas."

But for White to win, he will have to appeal to the Hispanic vote, Murray said.

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TEXAS & TEXES
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125
TEXAS & TEXES

Seven UT faculty receive honor for teaching methods

Academy distinguishes members with original classroom practices

By Radhika Sakalkale
Daily Texan Staff

Seven faculty members were inducted into UT's Academy of Distinguished Teachers on Tuesday for implementing innovative teaching techniques in their classrooms.

The academy, established in February 1995, recognizes University professors who are committed to providing a valuable and unique learning experience for students. Members of the academy serve as mentors to new faculty, participate in workshops and advise the president on the University's instructional mission. More than 100 faculty members have been inducted since the academy's inception.

The inductees were transportation engineering professor Chandra Bhat, associate social work professor Marilyn Armour, associate architecture professor Elizabeth Danze, architecture professor Christopher Long, psychology professor James Pennebaker, government professor Daron Shaw and physics professor Greg Sitz.

"I look at teaching as teasing students by exhausting them to think for themselves, intrinsically motivating them and giving them a good foundation," Bhat said.

Bhat said his teaching techniques focus on integrating sustainable engineering with transportation in a way that will make transportation methods more environmentally friendly.

Jeff LaMondia, an engineering graduate student and Bhat's research assistant, said Bhat is sensitive to his students' performance in class and wants to help them succeed.

"Altruism is not the only reason that gets me passionate about teaching," Bhat said. "Teaching provides an opportunity for me to connect with young, dynamic minds. It helps me learn and innovate in research and adds structure to my life. It gives an inner peace and tranquility that few other activities do."

Each year, five to 10 members are inducted into the academy by a selection process that consists of an evaluation of the nominations for the year by students, faculty and campus administrators. The academy consists of approximately 5 percent of the tenured faculty at UT.

"It is both an honor and responsibility, and it pushes me to maintain standards of good teaching," Armour said. "I attempt to teach in experiential and cognitive levels so students examine areas that they haven't before and think critically about normative behavior in society."

Social work graduate student Lauren Bloom said she was touched by Armour's style of teaching on the first day of class.

"My experience with [Armour] has been life-changing and has introduced me to a new paradigm of learning," Bloom said.

The academy encourages honoring excellence in teaching, enhancing teaching's effectiveness and creating a body of faculty that is inspiring and can promote a sense of community at the University.

"The academy is a way to recognize and honor professors who were chosen as the best teachers on the UT campus," said finance professor Keith Brown, who is a member of the academy. "It's probably the foremost teaching honor that can be bestowed on a faculty member at UT."



Senior Phaedra Koonz enjoys the shade under a tree in a hammock along the Main Mall. The city of Austin is accepting nominations for residents' favorite tree as part of the fourth annual Austin's Tree of the Year Award.

Austinites nominate favorite trees

City uses award to create awareness, appreciation of local environment

By Katherine Noble
Daily Texan Staff

Austin residents' favorite trees will soon be getting more recognition than the occasional hug.

The city of Austin is accepting nominations for the fourth annual Austin's Tree of the Year Award.

The Austin Climate Protection Program created the award in 2007 to raise awareness of the importance of Austin's urban forestry and to encourage public participation in caring for the environment of the city, program staff member Leah Haynie said.

Winners will be chosen for

the best large and small trees as well as the best community tree. An event honoring the tree winners will be held in October to kick off Austin's tree-planting season. Nominations will be accepted until June 30 and can be filled out online.

Haynie said what makes a tree important to people is its connotations of community and its function as a gathering place for friends and families.

"We have gotten some of the most creative and even beautiful nomination packets in the past," she said. "People submitted pictures and wrote poems and narratives about the tree's significance to them. Last year we got the coolest collage made up of pictures and a list

of the activities the community enjoyed under the tree. That kind of spirit is fundamental in a place like Austin."

Even the most creative nomination cannot guarantee a tree the top prize, Haynie said. The four judges use a matrix scale to rate the tree on its aesthetics and biological factors. Last year the judges visited the sites of the 27 nominated trees and assessed factors such as fortitude, uniqueness, health and how close it reaches the "ideal" form of the species.

"Environmental contests get people thinking about the role of nature in their lives," she said. "Awarding winners promotes proper tree care by showcasing the outstanding results

of nurtured and healthy trees."

Because the forests of the Texas Hill Country surround Austin, the city boasts a variety of tree species, including elm, cedar, hackberry, oak, crape myrtle and pecan. Last year's large tree winner was a Bald Cypress located on Red Bud Isle, and the small tree winner was a Texas Persimmon located in Mayfield Park.


To get better acquainted with the great outdoors and the variety of trees the region offers, Emily King, a city arborist and Tree of the Year judge, encourages Austinites to take a trip to Zilker Botanical Garden or the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

"Both are killer tree-watching places," King said.



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BASEBALL
TEXAS 6, PRAIRIE VIEW A&M 0

Another game, another win



Photos by Bobby Longoria | Daily Texan Staff

Above, Brothers Kyle (6) and Kevin (14) Lusson greet each other at home plate after Kevin hit his ninth home run of the season. Kyle had been on first base and was brought home by his brother's homer to give Texas a 6-0 lead in the bottom of the eighth. Below, Kendall Carillo throws a pitch in Tuesday night's game. Carillo threw for 3.2 innings.

Moldenhaur, Lusson combine for 5 RBIs to give Horns 21st straight win

By Chris Tavarez
Daily Texan Staff

Texas head coach Augie Garrido stressed that his team should never have any expectations, should never expect an easy game and should never be satisfied. But for a team that has struggled in its mid week non conference games — two losses and three games won by just one run — wrapping up its final Tuesday game of the season with a 6-0 win over Prairie View A&M had to be a relief.

"No," Garrido said when asked if the win was a relief. "The only thing that's comforting at the end of the day is the W. Then everyone is kind of satisfied."

Not even designated hitter Russell Moldenhauer was satisfied with his three-run home run in the bottom of the sixth.

"It wasn't too bad," Moldenhauer deadpanned.

Maybe Texas' lack of exuberance was because of the fact that it could only muster one run through five innings against a pitcher who entered the game with close to a 5.00 ERA. But even with his high ERA, Garrido still had plenty of praise for Benjamin Blackburn.

"Their pitcher was legit," Garrido said. "He had a good breaking ball and a good changeup. He located his fastball, he seldom got behind in the count. He did really keep us off balance."

The Panthers' righty was able to keep Texas' bats at bay until Mold-

WIN continues on page 10

Bullpen shows its depth, pitches eighth shutout of the season

By Michael Sherfield
Daily Texan Staff

This Texas pitching staff might not be the best Augie Garrido has ever coached, statistically speaking at least, but they're certainly good enough.

Good enough to lead the nation in earned runs allowed at 2.13.

Good enough to carry a team to a 21-game winning streak.

Good enough to pitch eight shutouts, even when the starting pitcher doesn't make it out of the fifth inning.



That was the case Tuesday night as the Longhorns completed an otherwise unremarkable 6-0 win over Prairie View A&M. Starter Sam Stafford pitched only 4.1 innings and turned it over to the bullpen in a three-pitcher, three-hit shutout.

"That's good. The best I've ever had is 1.55," Garrido said about ERA. "But it was

BULLPEN continues on page 10

Box scores turned into game recaps by software



By Blake Hurtik
Daily Texan Columnist

It's never a good thing when BusinessWeek writes something about newspapers. Usually when the mag and like-minded publications discuss papers, it's about declining revenues, disappearing readership and newsroom layoffs.

But, boy, did they churn out a disconcerting story on April 29, especially for sports writers like yours truly. Author Justin Bachman asked the terrifying question: Are sports writers really necessary?

He asked this because of the new software technology being utilized by the Big Ten Network — among others — that turns a run-of-the-mill box score into a game story. It's hard not to be impressed. Just try to pick out which of these examples that Bachman provides was written by a computer and not a human:

A) "The University of Michigan baseball team used a four-run fifth inning to salvage the final game in its three-game weekend series with Iowa, winning 7-5 on Saturday afternoon (April 24) at the Wilpon Baseball Complex, home of historic

WEB continues on page 10

HOCKEY

AHL finds success, passion in Texas

By Johnie Glasenapp
Daily Texan Staff

CEDAR PARK — Round Rock isn't the only Austin suburb to have its own sports franchise. Thanks in part to the Dallas Stars and the people of Cedar Park, the Texas Stars hockey team has become its own success story in more ways than one.

On the ice, the Stars are in the midst of a championship run, currently trailing 2-1 the Chicago Wolves in the second round of the American Hockey League playoffs. Off the ice, the team has consistently filled a brand-new arena and pleased fans.

The process of moving the club to Cedar Park started in 2008 when Dallas' minor league club, the Iowa Stars, was phased out. The city jumped at the opportunity to land the team.

"Ownership dissolved, and prospects had to play elsewhere," Texas Stars President Rick McLaughlin said.

When the vote was approved for the Cedar Park Center in 2008, it set in motion a successful inauguration for the Texas Stars, which exceeded the expectations of ownership, coaches, players and fans. The atmosphere of the crowds in the final game of the season and during the playoffs has been electric.

"It's really something special, even unique and just a great atmosphere," Stars' captain

Landon Wilson said. "The volume is right there with Winnipeg."

The passionate and "educated" crowds, according to forward Greg Rallo, have made for an easy and fun move for the players. And they are used to moving.

The AHL is the final step toward playing in the National Hockey League. Francis Wathier, a forward out of Ontario, Canada, has played for the Stars' organization since they were in Iowa.

"You have to be in that mindset to be able to move from place to place," Wathier said. "It goes with the job. It's a blessing to be called up. Obviously, it is a dream come true to be playing at the highest level."

The AHL is not only the next step to the NHL, but it is a place to finish your hockey career. Rallo has played with former Stars' veterans Mike Keane and Brad Lukowich in his young career. For the playoffs, he and the Stars had the fortune of playing with Dallas rookie Jamie Benn.

"It's a great experience to play with guys you grew up watching," Rallo said.

No matter who played for the club this season, success has been a common thread.

The Stars finished their first regular season with 99 points, good enough for third in the Western Conference and a home-ice advantage for the first round of the Calder Cup



Ron Byrd | Texas Stars media relations

Stars center Perttu Lindgren celebrates after scoring a goal earlier this season.

Playoffs. McLaughlin expected the Stars to make the playoffs, but not like this.

"I did not expect us to get 99 points," McLaughlin said. "I didn't expect 45,000

STARS continues on page 10

SIDELINE

NBA Playoffs

Atlanta 71
Orlando 114

Utah 103
LA Lakers 111

NHL Playoffs

Pittsburgh 2
Montreal 0

San Jose 4
Detroit 3 F/OT

MLB

American League

Toronto 8
Cleveland 5

Baltimore 1
NY Yankees 4

LA Angels 1
Boston 5

Kansas City 2
Chicago White Sox 2

Detroit 3
Minnesota 4

Texas 6
Oakland 7

Tampa Bay 5
Seattle 2

National League

Arizona 1
Houston 0

Atlanta 3
Washington 6

St. Louis 1
Philadelphia 2 F/10

Chicago Cubs 2
Pittsburgh 3

NY Mets 5
Cincinnati 4

San Francisco 9
Florida 6 F/12

SPORTS BRIEFLY

Bradley hires agent as he looks forward to June's NBA Draft

Fox Sports reported that Texas guard Avery Bradley has hired agent Dan Fegan and will remain in the NBA Draft. He had until this coming Saturday to withdraw his name and return to college, but he chose to take his game to the next level instead.

By opting for the NBA early, Bradley will miss ex-Findlay Prep teammates Tristan Thompson and Cory Joseph, who have both decided to play at Texas next year.

Bradley had a solid, but not spectacular, freshman season as he averaged 11.6 points per game. Unfortunately for the woeful Longhorns, he failed to match the impact performances of contemporaries like Kentucky's John Wall and Kansas' Xavier Henry and struggled down the stretch.

— Laken Litman

Men's, women's tennis teams receive their NCAA seeding

The football, basketball, baseball and volleyball teams are used to getting the public's attention at Texas, but let it be known that the men's and women's tennis programs are success stories as well.

The men were regular-season and tournament Big 12 champions and have earned the No. 3 seed in the upcoming NCAA tournament. They will host first- and second-round matches, which start Friday, May 14, at UT's Penick-Allison Tennis Center.

The Longhorns (25-2) will play UTSA in the first round on May 14 at 1 p.m. If Texas wins, it will play the winner of the Arizona-Minnesota game on Saturday, May 15. The winner advances to the Sweet 16, which will be at Georgia the following week.

Texas has reached the national semifinals or better in three of the last four seasons and could win it all this year.

The women earned a No. 16 seed in this year's NCAA tournament and will play Wichita State in the opening round in Norman, Okla., on Friday, May 14 at 11 a.m. If the Longhorns (17-5) win, they will play the victor of Arkansas and Oklahoma on Saturday, May 15 at 2 p.m.

The winner of that match will then advance to the Sweet 16, which will also be played at Georgia.

— L.L.

WEB: Program doesn't produce quality writing

From page 8

Ray Fisher Stadium.”

B) “Michigan held off Iowa for a 7-5 win on Saturday. The Hawkeyes (16-21) were unable to overcome a four-run sixth-inning deficit. The Hawkeyes clawed back in the eighth inning, putting up one run.”

C) “The Iowa baseball team dropped the finale of a three-game series, 7-5, to Michigan on Saturday afternoon. Despite the loss, Iowa won the series, having picked up two wins in the twinbill at Ray Fisher Stadium on Friday.”

If you picked B, you did better than me. But sports writers out there should breathe a bit easier. None of those snippets would be considered quality writing by any editor. The other two were written by the school’s sports information directors (SIDs for short), the same folks who produce all of the content you read at *Texas-Sports.com*, UT’s athletic website. I think it’s more of a reflection on them when it’s nearly impossible to distinguish their work from that of a computer.

Still, the magic is made possible by a five-month-old company called Narrative Science, which licensed the technology developed by Northwestern University journalism and computer science professors. They appropriately dubbed it the “Stats Monkey.”

While that moniker could easily be used as an accurate insult for many sports writers, it falls a bit short of the mark. It only takes a few basic journalism courses and a few times in the press box to figure out that quality sports journalism isn’t found in the box score. More so than ever with the freedom of the Web, sports writing has grown from the box score and trended toward analysis and, for better or worse, opinion.

But that doesn’t mean there aren’t readers out there who prefer the meat-and-potatoes style of writing that this software can ably provide. This affects school media relations departments and SIDs more than traditional journalists.

“It’s considerably less expensive for us to go this route than for us to try to have our own beat reporters at each one of these games,” Michael Calderon, Big Ten’s director of new media, told Business Week. “In fact, it would be logistically impossible for us to do that.”

For smaller schools with a tighter media relations budget, the software could help shave some dollars off the bottom line. At Texas, where money flows seemingly endlessly down at Belmont Hall, it likely wouldn’t replace any actual people and salaries. After all, *Texas-Sports.com* has a former beat writer for the San Antonio Express-News (and a Daily Texan ex) editing its website. Where’s the fun in editing a robot?

That statement cuts to the core of the problem of having computer-generated sports stories. People read about sports for the same reason they watch them: It’s fun. Even the blandest of sports recaps by The Associated Press, which ESPN and Yahoo! regularly use, have entertainment in mind.

After all, that’s why we sports writers get into the game. There’s a reason why the rest of the newsroom calls the sports department the “toy department” of the paper. With sports, you get the freedom to try to capture the emotion and drama — and countless other elements — that get lost in basic news reporting.

With the downturn in newspapers, sports jobs are hard enough to come by without having to worry about robots and computers encroaching on your profession.

When they can start writing stories with nuance, humor and drama, then we’ll be worried. We’ve got enough on our plates as it is.

NFL

Rookies surprised by oddball questions

By Barry Wilner

The Associated Press

Following the storm surrounding Dolphins general manager Jeff Ireland asking Oklahoma State receiver Dez Bryant if his mother was a prostitute, for which Ireland later apologized, NFL rookies at minicamps last weekend told The Associated Press they fielded some oddball inquiries from team executives before the draft.

Bengals fourth-round pick Geno Atkins said one club asked him about his sexual orientation.

“The only unusual question I got was if I was straight or gay,” said Atkins, a defensive tackle from Georgia whose father, Gene, played 10 seasons in the league. “And that was about it.

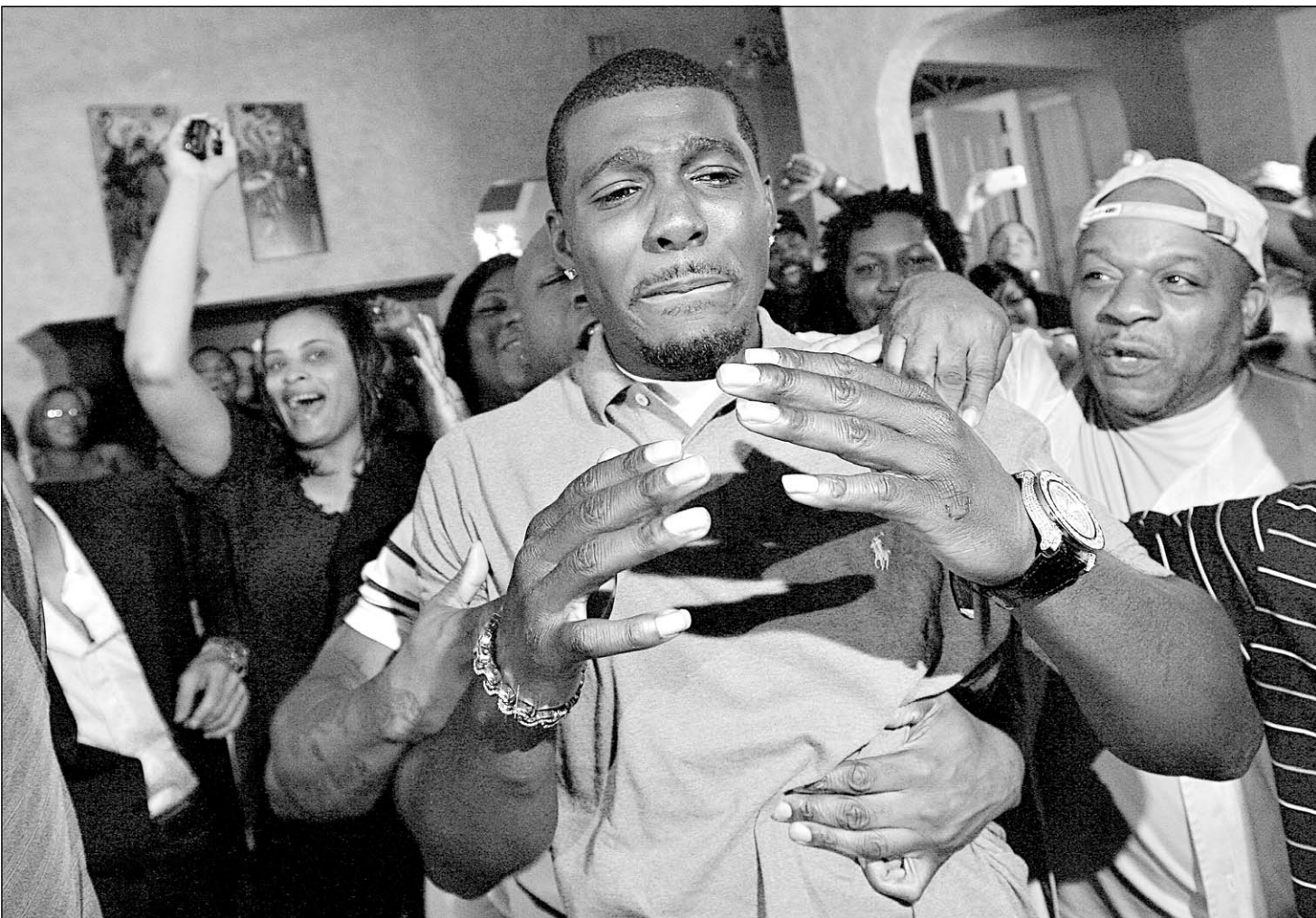
“‘McDonald’s or Burger King?’ I think ‘Pillow or blanket?’ was another one. Those were the strange, unusual ones I got. I was like, ‘What does that have to do with football?’ I think they were kind of trying to loosen me up a little bit.”

Or tighten him up. The interviews are designed to test a young player’s demeanor as much as a 40-yard dash is used to measure his speed. So potential draft picks have to be prepared for outlandish questions, even if they never get them.

They’ve also got to be ready to get baited.

“Some of the interviews were different,” said Cowboys second-rounder Sean Lee, a linebacker from Penn State. “Like, I had one team that really came and criticized me and the school I was at, and they’re really trying to just get you fired up. They’re really just using different tactics to try to see you face adversity, how you react to somebody getting on you.

“That was probably the most unusual thing I had, somebody came at me and said, ‘I’ve never seen a guy from Penn State make plays.’ Really, you just have to keep your cool and come back with passionate but respectful answers.”



Tom Pennington | Associated Press

Oklahoma State wide receiver Dez Bryant is overcome with emotion with friends and family after being selected as the 24th overall pick by the Dallas Cowboys in the first round of NFL Draft a couple of weeks ago.

Most teams begin the interviewing process at the NFL combine in February, when a player might meet with a dozen or more clubs in one day. It’s a monotonous process for the collegians, and sometimes just as tiresome for the front office executives conducting the sessions.

Still, there is a certain protocol, something Ireland admittedly violated with Bryant, who was suspended for most of the 2009 season for lying to the NCAA about his activities with Deion Sanders.

“My job is to find out as much information as possible about a player that I’m considering draft-

ing,” Ireland said in a statement. “Sometimes that leads to asking in-depth questions. Having said that, I talked to Dez Bryant and told him I used poor judgment in one of the questions I asked him. I certainly meant no disrespect and apologized to him.

“I appreciate his acceptance of that apology, and I told him I wished him well as he embarks on his NFL career.”

Others embarking on NFL careers said they experienced nothing like the Bryant-Ireland incident.

“I’ve never been asked anything like that,” added guard

Jacques McClendon, Indianapolis’ fourth-round choice out of Tennessee. “You just know these teams want to get whatever information they can. If they’re going to invest that kind of money in me, then you have to be cooperative with the process.”

The process includes more than a quick Q and A. Players undergo all kinds of mental and psychological tests, too. They might meet with a dozen members of an NFL team, from scouts to coaches to general manager — perhaps even the owner in the cases of the Cowboys and Jets, for example.

Teams also send along a pack-

et of questions for players to answer. That might lack the personal touch, but can be effective in its own right.

The packets are where the dog-versus-cat question often comes up. Generally, those questions are within the bounds of good taste.

“No, no. I didn’t get any of that. That would be a whole entire different level,” Lee said.

Mississippi running back Dexter McCluster, a second-round pick by Kansas City, did have one team go “American Idol” on him.

“One coach asked me to sing,” McCluster said.

NBA

Spurs’ mistakes can be fixed in time for Game 2

By Bob Baum

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — The San Antonio Spurs need only look back a few days for a reminder that a Game 1 playoff loss in Phoenix is not the end of the world.

“Honestly, we’d love to have got that one to kind of get them on their heels,” Tim Duncan said after the Spurs practiced on Tuesday, “but we still have an opportunity to steal homecourt here tomorrow, and we’re going to do just that. We’ve got a lot of things to clean up. We feel if we do just that, we give ourselves a real good chance.”

A San Antonio victory in Game 2 Wednesday night would send the best-of-seven Western Conference semifinal series to San Antonio tied 1-1. In the first round, the Spurs lost Game 1 in Dallas, then won Game 2 and eliminated the Mavericks in six.

The Spurs watched video of Monday night’s 111-102 loss and came away liking their Game 2 chances.

“We made so many mistakes,” Manu Ginobili said, “but at the same time, with all those mistakes, all those flaws we had, we were pretty close. ... We are optimistic in that regard. We can play so much better.”

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said “I don’t know” when asked if he would move Tony Parker into the starting lineup after the speedster’s big game off the bench Monday night.

day night.

Parker said an abrupt “no” when asked if thought he would start.

He has been coming off the bench since his return April 6 after missing 16 games with a broken bone in his right hand. George Hill has been the starter, but Steve Nash made Hill look like a statue early in Game 1. The Suns’ playmaker made his first five shots and had 17 points by the end of the first quarter. He finished with 33 points and 10 assists, the sixth “30-10” playoff game of his career.

Parker has given the Suns fits throughout his career. He had 26 points in 35 minutes on Monday. “They go up-tempo. There are a lot of possessions,” Parker said. “I like to play up and down. That’s why I think I’ve always been very successful against them.”

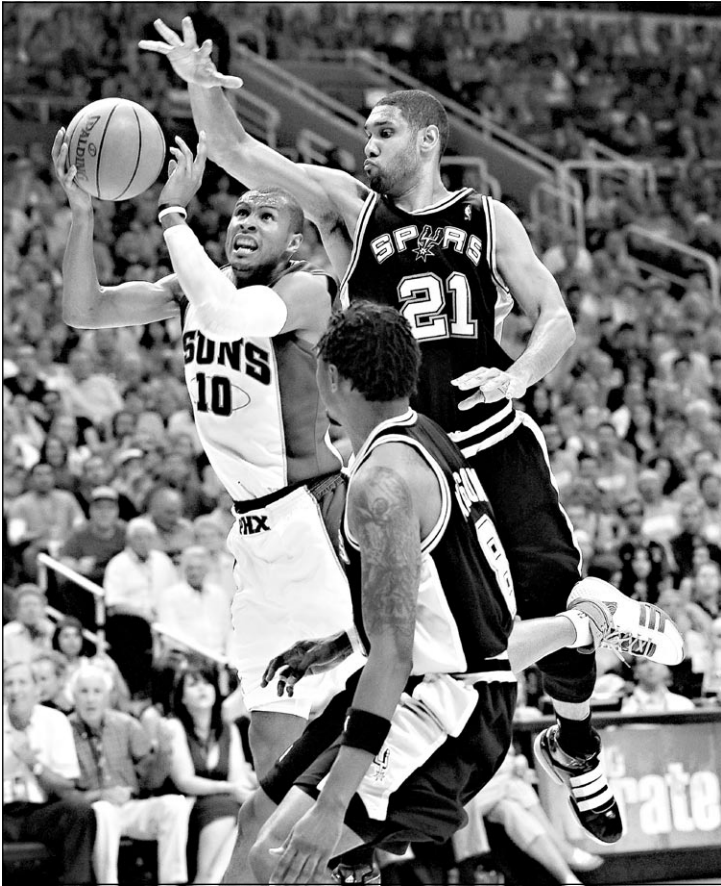
Ginobili said Parker “is huge in this series because of the way he attacks seams.”

“It also puts Nash in trouble, too, having to chase him,” Ginobili said. “So we definitely need Tony a lot, but the same way we need everybody else.”

Nash had rested his strained right hip for three days, and was uncertain how he would feel when Game 1 tipped off.

“I was a little nervous about it,” he said on Tuesday. “But I felt great and I had no setbacks, so I am really excited about that.”

Parker said Nash’s early offensive assault was “a little bit” of



Ross D. Franklin | Associated Press

Suns guard Leandro Barbosa shoots over Spurs center Tim Duncan during Game 1 Monday night.

a surprise. Nash expects a much more aggressive defense against him on Wednesday.

Before Monday’s win, Phoenix had lost three straight Game 1s to

the Spurs, two of them at home. San Antonio still has another, ultimately more important, streak going. The Spurs have won four straight playoff series against the Suns.

WIN: Offense adjusts to slower pitch

From page 8

enhauer’s sixth-inning home run. Blackburn had a slower speed and tricky changeup that took the most of the Longhorns two at bats to figure out.

“Obviously [he’s] a little slower pitcher than we’re used to,” Moldenhauer said. “We finally, after most of the guys had their second at bat, said, ‘OK, we need to do something different here.’ A lot of us started moving closer to the box to kind of speed it up.”

What worked for Moldenhauer, also worked for Kevin Lusson in the bottom of the eighth.

With his brother Kyle on first

base as a pinch runner for Kevin Keyes, who had singled into right field, Lusson took a 2-1 count for a ride over the right field fence to give him his ninth dinger of the season and Texas, a 6-0 lead.

“Actually, I was looking to hit the ball opposite field,” Lusson said. “I made an adjustment; I scooted up. I was looking away, but he left one up, and I just turned on it.”

Lusson and Moldenhauer’s combined five RBIs provided plenty of support for a pitching staff that lowered the team ERA to an impressive 2.13. It also pitched the team’s eighth shutout of the season, and its sixth of the streak.

BULLPEN: Longhorns’ pitching staff only allows three hits in shutout

From page 8

in Division Two and a lot different opponents.”

Tuesday’s victim, the Panthers, weren’t much of an opponent to the hottest team in the country. Prairie View, part of the Southwestern Athletic Conference, dropped to 12-30 on the year. They didn’t put up much of a fight, gaining just six base runners.

Their one threat, loading the bases in the third inning with one out against Stafford, was quickly extinguished on a shallow fly out and one of Stafford’s seven strikeouts.

That was a triumph for Stafford, who battled back after walking two in the inning to last 4.1 innings, a career high, a week after going only one against UTSA.

“He’s been able to get out of that; you just have to have the courage to sit through it,” Garrido said of leaving Stafford in. “You would assume, and that always bites you, that you’re going to score a lot of runs [against Prairie View], but same old Tuesday.”

From that point, the Panthers managed only two base hits in the remaining five innings. Reliever Kendall Carrillo, who

came in after one of those hits in the fifth, pitched 3.2 innings of one-hit ball before handing the ball over to Hoby Milner for a perfect ninth.

“It’s amazing. Our pitching staff has been awesome this year,” Carrillo said. “It’s exciting to see what we can do as a staff when everyone is throwing well.”

That’s been the case lately. The shutout comes on the heels of a series sweep of Baylor that saw Texas allow only four runs in 32 innings, and that wasn’t even the best pitching performance of the year (they allowed

only 3 to Oklahoma, with two shutouts).

Since the winning streak’s start on April 1, Texas has allowed more than three runs only three times, but two of them have come on Tuesday nights against nonconference opposition and without the established arms of Taylor Jungmann or Cole Green on the hill.

But there was no danger of a Panthers scoring spree last night as Carrillo and Milner shut the door.

So while Garrido’s 1.55 ERA might be out of reach, little else is for the best pitching staff in the nation.

STARS: Team is a good thing for Cedar Park

From page 8

tickets, either.”

Fans have come out in droves in large part due to the Cedar Park Center, which was completed in September and has also hosted large touring acts, including George Strait, Kelly Clarkson and Wilco.

“The team is a good thing for Cedar Park. The crowds are energetic and supportive,” Stars’ fan Deahni Henniger said. “We have been to 11 games this year, and it has been fun for the whole family. This team is really pulled-together and very professional.”

Stars coach Glen Gulutzan also credits the state-of-the-art facility with much of his team’s success. After all, he likes playing regularly in front of crowds of 5,000 to 6,800 people.

“It is a great venue,” said Gulutzan, who’s in his first year as head coach of the Stars after six years with the Las Vegas Wranglers. “It was a great crowd for the first year. The front office deserves a lot of credit, along with the Dallas organization.”

They may end up thanking them with a Calder Cup — there couldn’t be a better way to christen the new arena and team.

NEWS BRIEFLY

SG passes resolution to include student involvement in budget

In its last meeting of the semester Tuesday night, Student Government addressed several pieces of legislation, including a resolution in support of student involvement in the budgeting process and a bill to create an Internal Reform Task Force that will help streamline SG's constitution and bylaws.

The budget resolution urges the administration to consider student voice in budgetary decisions that affect student affairs. It parallels a Senate of College Councils resolution passed Thursday that asks for student input in academic budgeting decisions.

"Senate has the academic affairs expertise, but a lot of these budget cuts are going to affect student affairs, and we want to be involved in that," said University-wide representative Natalie Butler, who authored the legislation.

The Senate and SG may work together to present a united force for student action in budgeting discussions, Butler said.

The 11-student-member Internal Reform Task Force, approved and appointed at Tuesday's meeting, will spend the rest of 2010 carefully examining SG's constitution and bylaws to cut inconsistencies and superfluities to make SG a more fully functional and efficient body, SG President Scott Parks said.

Executive director Jimmy Talarico said problems with SG's governing prevent it from serving students most effectively. For example, graduate student representative John Woods noted that the Judiciary Committee, a committee that is supposed to be appointed by the first Monday in May according to the SG Constitution, has not been addressed. The commission is intended to consider cases of constitutional violation.

The commission was never formed under the 2009-10 administration and was not formed under the 2008-09 administration until summer, Vice President Muneezeh Kabir said. Parks said he is working with administrators to establish it as soon as possible.

"Our governing documents and operating procedures are out of date; they are not very functional, and they really need to be reformed. For instance, our branches of government have not been looked at in a long time," Talarico said. "In order to be able to tackle student issues, we have to make sure our own house is in order."

The executive board also announced its decision to create a \$4,000 scholarship by paring its own stipends. They will award the academic and financial need-based scholarship next spring.

"We decided to take away some of our stipends and give back to students in an effort to follow through with our platform that included both affordability and accessibility," external financial director Nell Swanson said.

— Audrey White

UT's Honor-A-Nurse program supports nursing students

UT's School of Nursing is holding the Honor-A-Nurse program this month to raise money for nursing students while honoring those who have made a difference at the University and within the greater Austin community.

The program supports student scholarships at the nursing school by taking each donation and placing it in the student scholarship fund. Each of the honored nurses will receive a personalized card and will be recognized on the nursing school's website, in its electronic newsletter and on the school's alumni network Facebook page.

Lindsey Becker, development associate for the School of Nursing, said the program was a great way to provide funding for students and celebrate national nurses month at the same time.

"This is a relatively new program, and we had pretty good success with it," Becker said. "It's a fun thing for the school to do. Every single dollar that we raise during the month of May will go toward the scholarship fund, and this will benefit students very much in a good way."

This is the program's second year. Each donation made will be considered a tax-deductible gift and will be listed on the Honor-A-Nurse website.

— Priscilla Pelli



Bruno Morlan | Daily Texan Staff

Attendees of the annual Environmental Trade Fair and Conference at the Austin Convention Center examine a Smart Car's miles-per-gallon average and manufacturer's suggested retail price Tuesday afternoon.

Green fair promotes companies

By Hannah Jones
Daily Texan Staff

Dozens of rows of information booths as well as a state-of-the-art, green-friendly tractor filled the Austin Convention Center for the annual Environmental Trade Fair and Conference.

Hundreds of environmental companies met in Austin to sell their products and network as part of the conference, the largest of its kind in Texas.

The trade fair and conference, hosted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, started at the convention center on Tuesday and will continue through today.

The conference, which is primarily geared toward promot-

ing environmental companies and green products, is one of the biggest in the nation put on by a state government. Environmental companies set up information booths so customers and the public can become familiar with their businesses and purchase their services.

Staff of the environmental commission also held classes and workshops throughout the day on a wide variety of environmental subjects from air quality and ethics to water-quality planning and waste transportation.

Commission spokesman Terry Clawson said the conference gathers all companies and organizations that protect Texas' environment and provide services such as

managing oil spills, environmental engineering and water-quality testing.

"The conference is more meant for professionals, but it is also important for the public to want to come to the conference," Clawson said.

Some companies represented at the conference, such as Dallas-based Cactus Environmental Services, provide a full line of maintenance and hazardous-waste transportation options for schools and other clients.

Vicki Torres, customer service manager of the company, said one of its services provides waste management for public school and hospital laboratories.

"Since I have worked in the in-

dustry for over 18 years, the industry has changed so much," Torres said. "I have noticed an increase in attendance at the conference, hopefully due to the economy. The economy drives a lot of the business and the amount of clients who need our services."

Chris McDonald, a sales member of Houston-based Gas and Supply, said the green movement has affected the industry since the movement has become more popular.

"The environment industry and this show [have] been going on for a while," Morton said. "The green movement has recently become more mainstream, and more people are interested in helping. It's taken a long time to get here."

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wordword.

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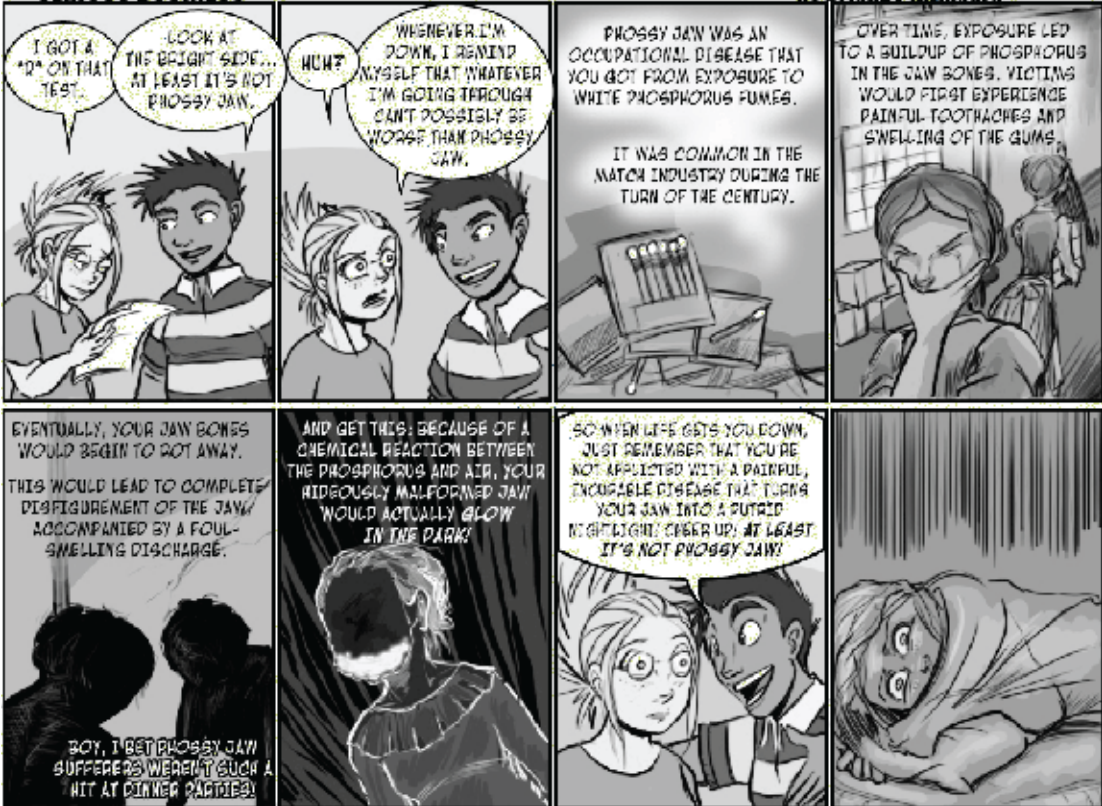
Solution: 8 letters

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T O O A R P M O W C S O F D R
L R T B E A L A I E L R I E
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E U A E L E C V A X O R S A T
H P U L R H A C O S U L O L H
O P N E M T A L L C A D R E I
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Yesterday's Answer: Dramatic
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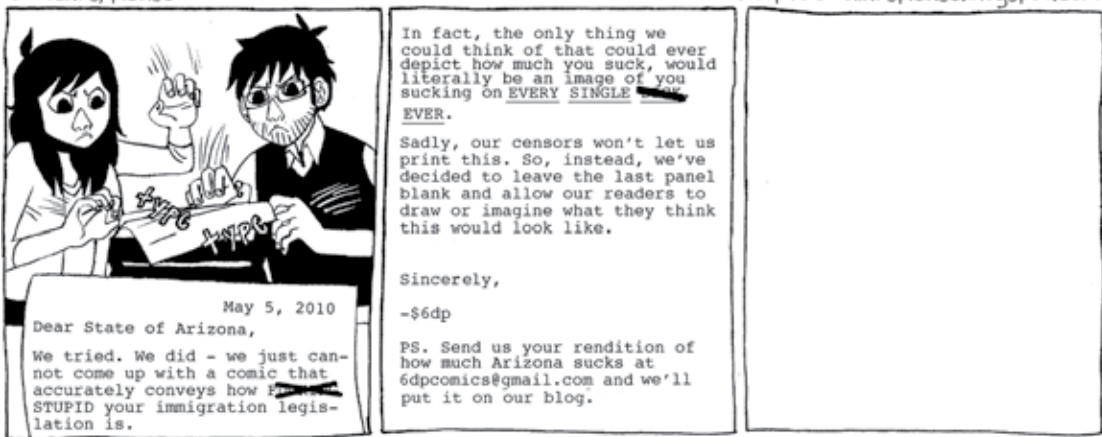
SERIOUS BUSINESS

by Brianne Kitnaard



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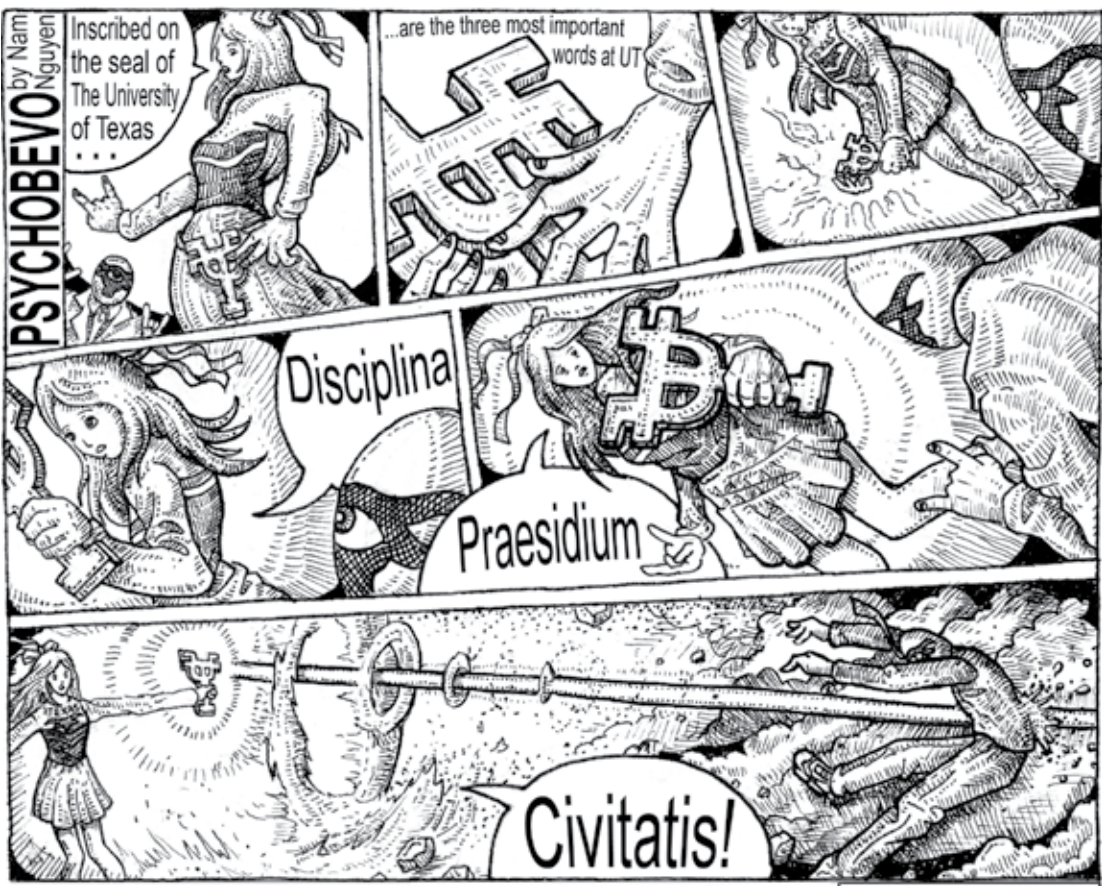
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by Jonathan Barceló-Riquéz and Rachel Weiss

ICEBREAKER

KATIE SMITH



CIRCUMLOCUTION: by C.C.



SUDOKU FOR YOU

	1						7		
	4	2		1		9		6	
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		8	9	2	7				
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3						6			

Yesterday's solution

4	5	7	3	1	6	9	8	2	
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5	3	4	2	6	9	1	7	8	
9	2	6	1	7	8	5	4	3	

adventures in emergency medicine

by gabe



NIGHT TALES: JAKE AND THE BAMBOO STALK

By Sammy



The New York Times Crossword

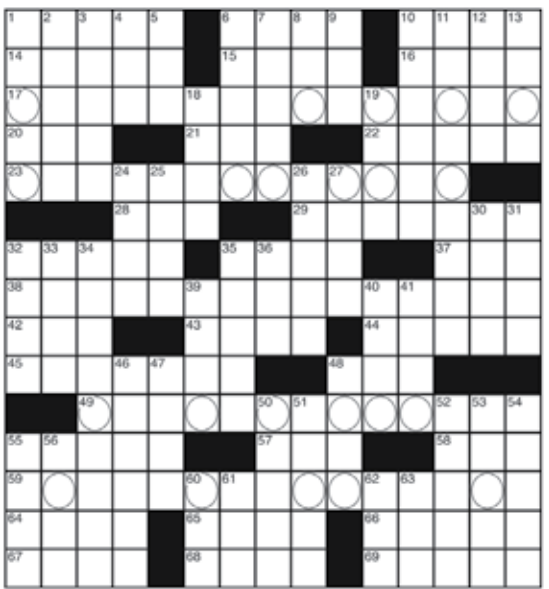
Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0331

- Across
- 1 Billionaire Bill
 - 6 Sleeping in, say
 - 10 Bolshevik's foe
 - 14 Lake of the Ozarks feeder
 - 15 Eins und zwei
 - 16 Streamlined, in brief
 - 17 How a former product may be brought back
 - 20 Louisville sports icon
 - 21 Like steak tartare
 - 22 Provokes
 - 23 Tale of a hellish trip
 - 28 Biochem strand
 - 29 Faulty, as a plan
 - 32 "City Without Walls" poet
 - 35 Shell alternative
 - 37 Trifling amount
 - 38 Redistributionist's catchphrase ... or a hint to the words formed by the circled letters
 - 42 "Piggy"
 - 43 Actor Jonathan ... Meyers
 - 44 ... dust (so-o-o boring)
 - 45 Suffering torment
 - 48 Ruling party in Johannesburg: Abbr.
 - 49 Upscale shoe brand
 - 55 Eccentric
 - 57 Soybean relative
 - 58 Valéry's vacation time
 - 59 Escapes via luxury liner
 - 64 Puzzling jumble: Abbr.
 - 65 Izmir native
 - 66 "Good question"
 - 67 Half-baked
 - 68 "Buy It Now" site
 - 69 Impudent lady
- Down
- 1 Sprout mold, say
 - 2 Places of respite
 - 3 Anticlimactic putt
 - 4 Eitist's problem
 - 5 Patriot Day mo.
 - 6 Dwight's two-time opponent
 - 7 Brain's counterpart
 - 8 Unceasingly, to Burns
 - 9 Accomplished
 - 10 Spanish road
 - 11 With fervor
 - 12 Obama education secretary — Duncan
 - 13 Concrete reinforcers
 - 18 Bear overhead?
 - 19 Muffs
 - 24 Dendrologist's subject
 - 25 Central Sicilian city
 - 26 Amalgamates
 - 27 Adequate, in verse
 - 30 Part of N.B.
 - 31 Cries from the momentarily stupid
 - 32 Moscato d' (Italian wine)
 - 33 Knowledgeable of
 - 34 Superstar assembly
 - 35 Alcohol type used as biofuel
 - 36 Short

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

SUVS MISO FIVEO
WHIPPEDUP ARYAN
AUCOURANT RAITT
THERM INF NIH
EAUDECOLOGNE
AHS SLAM GUY
LIEV ELIS NADIA
OHTOBEINENGLAND
TOSCA SEEM STOA
ABE NYET ANY
OWEBACKTAXES
NEC WON ETHOS
ALoha OPIONEERS
ISNEW BUDDYLIST
RHODA SPED EROS



Puzzle by Chuck Deodene

- 39 Flaming supervillain
- 40 Cross-dressing "Dame" of humor
- 41 Roman aqueduct support
- 46 Mustang's place
- 47 Vending machine input
- 48 Former orchard spray
- 50 Teatro La Fenice offering
- 51 Tom Sawyer's crush
- 52 Snuggles briefly
- 53 Lovey-dovey pairs
- 54 Merry Prankster Ken
- 55 Queensland gem
- 56 It parallels the radius
- 60 RAV4 or TrailBlazer, briefly
- 61 Chafe
- 62 Cry made while holding the nose
- 63 Note from a busted person

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Reality fights



Courtesy of MTV

A judge in New Jersey has agreed to hear a lawsuit that claims producers of MTV's hit reality show "Jersey Shore" engaged in a "criminal enterprise" by profiting from showing fights that cast members deliberately provoked.

TOMS RIVER, N.J. — A judge in New Jersey has agreed to hear a lawsuit that claims producers of MTV's hit reality show "Jersey Shore" engaged in a "criminal enterprise" by profiting from showing fights that cast members deliberately provoked. Attorney Eugene LaVergne of Long Branch said Monday that he filed the suit in March. It seeks unspecified monetary

damages on behalf of three clients involved in drunken fights with cast member Ronnie Magro. On Friday, Superior Court Judge Joseph L. Foster denied a motion to dismiss the claim that the defendants' conduct violated New Jersey's racketeering statute. An MTV spokeswoman has not returned messages seeking comment. — The Associated Press

HUMP: Video's anal sex scene lacks female perspective

From page 14

toward men (usually older men, I might add), Penfield decided that something needed to be done. "I started wondering if we could make something more appealing to this generation," Penfield said. "The key was to provide as much cover-to-cover instruction that not only put guys at ease without anxiety that they were knowledgeable but gave them specific things they could be like, 'OK, this is going to make my night better and her night better, and it's going to be fun.'" While the narration is done in a stereotypical "bro" fashion, the bulk of the video seemed to suggest an overwhelmingly pro-female pleasure agenda, which impressed me. The "bro" style of "How Players Do It" makes it very accessible to college-aged males; there is a heavy use of informal slang and humor, but it isn't done in a cheesy, kitschy or offensive way. And even though the movie's title contains the word "player," the overarching theme of the video seems to be how to make a girl want to have sex with you again later on. While sex is usually mar-

keted to men as a quantity-over-quality game, "How Players Do It" is clearly more focused on quality. "I try to avoid anything along those classical paradigms," Penfield said about the pro-woman undercurrent of his male-marketed video. "I think if it's great for women, it's great for guys. If it's great for guys, it's great for women. One of the points we make throughout the film, throughout the video, is like, if you make it a better time for her, it'll be better for both of you — and I think that's straight-up common sense." Some of the best parts of "How Players Do It" are the "P Academy" scene, which covers female anatomy, and "the twins" scene, covering everything boob-related. Having two calm-yet-flirty girls inform through showing and telling is probably one of the best ways to get young guys actually informed on exactly where the clitoris is and how it should be fondled, so "P Academy" gets a definite A-plus from me. "The Twins" was actually just as entertaining as it was informative — narrated by two smooth-talking and hilarious dudes who actually seem to know what they

are talking about, they frame their suggestions as dude-to-dude informal advice instead of official expert instructions. While girl-on-girl cunnilingus, the climax of the "P Academy" scene, is a great educational tool to keep guys interested in learning about female anatomy, I was not impressed with the anal sex scene. "If she isn't squirming or slapping your hand away, take that as your cue to slip in," said the video's narrator during the "ass fingering" instructions. And while I fully support the dissemination of information on anal pleasure, I am not convinced that H-Spot utilized enough female perspectives on the subject. And since the video tailors itself to female pleasure, I think that a woman's perspective is absolutely imperative for Volume II of the series. For example, the video cites "candles, music and a bath" as some options that might help a female newbie at anal sex to relax enough for anal penetration. But any woman who is actually taking it up the butt would laugh because romance won't help an anus relax — but a vibrator on the clitoris can.

Which brings me to the most important reason why a woman's perspective would have made the anal segment of "How Players Do It" more effective: Successful and pleasurable anal sex for a woman who is not already well-versed in the activity is almost always based on how prepared and comfortable she feels in the situation. What being prepared actually means is having a conversation about anal sex so that the woman can get herself comfortable with the idea of anal sex. Besides, I think it would be really hot for a guy to listen to a real woman (not a porn star) honestly and explicitly describe how anal sex can be not only "successful" (i.e. not painful) but also really pleasurable for her. Overall, I think "How Players Do It" is a noble effort to educate young men about sexual pleasure while also empowering them to be self-confident. The perspective of the video was as refreshing for being non-judgmental as for being down-to-earth (no stereotypical porn-style moaning here). But I might have to staple an anal addendum when I give the video to my dude friends.

DAFA: Followers faced torture, harassment in China for beliefs

From page 14

local practitioner, can relate to the conditions Zhiwen Wang currently endures. The Chinese government imprisoned him in 2001 for six years in the Sihui Prison in the Guangdong Province for his beliefs. Benson followed the rumors that Falun Dafa provided practitioners with numerous health benefits. He hoped that practicing would cure his chronic ulcer and insomnia. A year's worth of practice later, Benson claims that the energy eradicated his illnesses. "After one year of practicing until now, I have never gotten a fever, never a cold, no illness," Benson said in Mandarin Chinese through translator Yi Chin. "[This health] is based off my experience in cultivation."

When the Chinese government outlawed Falun Dafa, the police threatened Benson and forced his boss to fire him. Benson was outraged and traveled to Beijing to appeal the violation of his rights, and after multiple case refusals, the government sent Benson to a detention center for torture. "I would show you the scar, but I can't take off my shirt here," Benson said, describing his prison experiences, which included nervous-system-damaging drug injections. "The police even coerced other inmates into sexually harassing me." His family did not escape the harassment either. The Chinese government refused his wife Anna Yu the permission to give birth to their now 9-year-old son, William Yu. Anna traveled away from lo-

cal hospitals to give birth, but the government officials still refused to register the young boy. Benson said that even in America, William trembles at the word "police." By July 2007, the government released Benson, and he escaped with his family to Thailand, where the United Nations helped him find a home in Austin. Thinking back on his paperwork, Benson recites the police accusation: "You practice Falun Dafa." "Falun Dafa helped me be a good person, so I must protect [the practice]," Benson said. "There is such a great level of gratitude that practitioners will step forward to protect Falun Dafa and [founder] Li Hongzhi." Wen Chen, the owner of Drag-favorite Veggie Heaven, and his wife and daughter have been in-

involved with the Austin Falun Dafa community for three years. A newspaper advertisement about the qigong sparked their curiosity, followed by an interest in the surrounding political controversy. After practicing, Stacy Chen, Wen Chen's daughter and manager of Veggie Heaven, said that her mother's chronic shoulder pain was alleviated. But more importantly, the practice stirred their need to defend fellow practitioners. "Everyone [who practices] feels it's their responsibility to stand up," Stacy said. "We feel it's our duty to let people know what's going on in China." From their American homes, Benson and local practitioners, such as the Chens, work to end the persecution. The Chens have visited Washington, D.C., to speak with senators and representatives about the situation. This March, their efforts were rewarded: The House passed H.R. 605, calling on the Chinese Communist Party to stop the persecution, imprisonment and torture of Falun Dafa practitioners. Semple and Benson stress that the conflict between the Chinese Communist Party and Falun Dafa come from ideological differences. "We promote truthfulness, compassion and tolerance," Benson said. "The bad people don't like the good people. There will always be conflict."

PWN: Archivists aim to document, preserve game history for public

From page 14

graduate." Rangel is an extrovert who contradicts common perceptions of game designers, who are often portrayed as anti-social geeks in the media. The same can be said of most of the group, whose members gleefully interject in conversation and offer opinions that are often humorous and brutally honest; for example, an intern with Gendai Games came by to display his iPad game, which EGaDS endlessly jeered at during the presentation — all in good fun. You'd be hard-pressed to find a group of UT students so happy to work for the experience alone, and anyone of any experience level can join if they can pay their dues, which run \$25 per year or \$15 per semester. "We get a lot of people that don't know the first thing about making games," Rangel said. "We're in a stage where we are getting more experienced members — senior members — who have actually done internships and jobs, so now we can be mentors to the younger ones." While Rangel and his fellow EGaDS members attempt to conjure up the big game ideas of tomorrow, it's Zach Vowell's job at the UT Videogame Archive, along

with intern Matthew McKinley, to collect and archive the games of yesteryear. "As an archivist, my primary role consists in preserving and making accessible documentation that will facilitate historical research [and other scholarly research] on video games and the video game industry," Vowell said. "We would also like to promote the need for such research and histories." Housed within the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History on the eastern edge of campus, the archive houses internal design documents, concept art and games themselves. Some of these games date back to the early '80s, when developers packaged and shipped games in Ziploc bags. The bags were undoubtedly preferable in the eyes of the archivist, who must find space for PC games of the early '90s that were shipped in large cardboard boxes, which could have held the collected works of Shakespeare in addition to the games. "The trick will be for archives and libraries to replicate the ROM ['Read Only Memory,' or a data file copy of a disc's or chip's content] community's work or collaborate in some way," Vowell said. "Either way, you cannot rely on the original media and hardware because they will all eventually break, and the game will not be preserved." The UT Videogame Archive is open to the public, offering a unique, local resource for game fanatics and scholarly research. The archive plans to expand through local developer game and document donations as well as volunteer support from students in organizing the collection. While there are bigger questions regarding how Austin's many gaming communities will grow, the question Vowell is more interested in answering is why the archive's 30-year history has been so poorly documented prior to his project. "Most likely, though I'm only speculating here, it took so long because video games were not regarded as worthy of serious study," Vowell said. "Games' escalating cultural and economic impact has changed that attitude for many people recently."

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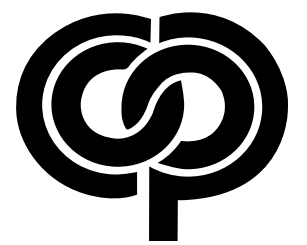
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James Hammond

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Nominated by **Geraldine Heng, Ph. D.**,
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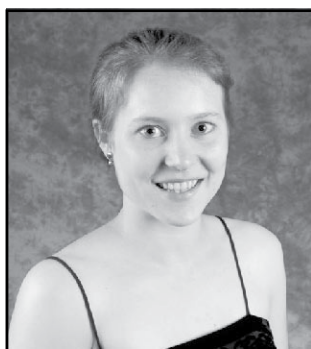
Krista Smith

Astronomy

A Search for Binary Active Galactic Nuclei: Double-Peaked AGN in the Sloan Digital Sky Survey

Nominated by **Gregory Shields, Ph.D.**,
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Wilson M. and Kathryn Fraser Research
Professor In Biochemistry, Department of Chemistry
and Biochemistry, College of Natural Sciences



Om J. Neeley

Business Honors & Corporate Finance/ Plan II

Changing Tactics: The Quiet Dalliance Between Pharmaceutical Companies, Lobbyists, and Medical Schools

Nominated by **Henry W Brands, Ph. D.**,
The Raymond Dickson, Alton C. Allen and
Dillon Anderson Centennial Professor
Department of History, College of Liberal Arts



Kathleen Skinner

English/History

Ships, Logs, and Voyages: Maria Graham Navigates the Journey of H.M.S. BLONDE

Nominated by **Lance Bertelsen, Ph.D.**,
Iris Howard Regents Professor in English Literature
Department of English, College of Liberal Arts



Keeley Steenson

Radio-Television-Film/Plan II

Show and Tell

Nominated by **Paul Stekler, Ph. D.**,
George Christian Centennial Professor
Department of Radio Television Film,
College of Communication



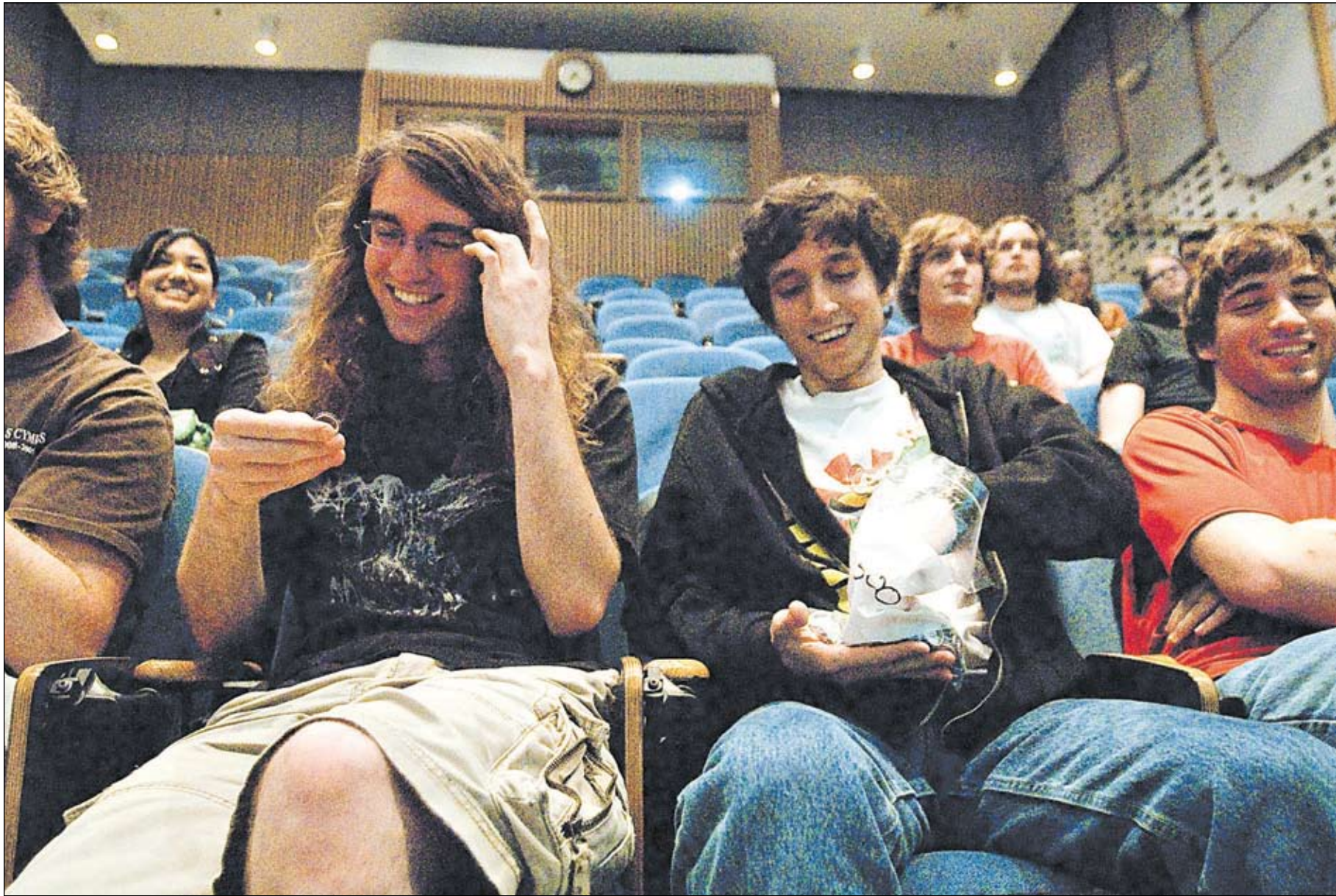
Anthony Wright

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Nominated by John Traphagan, Ph. D.,
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Religious Studies, College of Liberal Arts

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Maxx Scholten | Daily Texan Staff

Members of the Electronic Game Developer Society pass around a bag of pins from an Austin video game development company during a meeting on April 15.

Gamers gather to 'pwn' social barriers

Editor's note: This is the fourth in a five-part series that focuses on Austin's video game industry: the history, the creators, the fans and the culture that surrounds it.

By Allistair Pinsof
Daily Texan Staff

There was once a place called the "video arcade," which contained gamer culture in its essence. Kids and adults alike gathered around the latest video games with excitement, and competitive players traded tips with one another. Since the demise of the arcade in the U.S., it's become more difficult to find like-minded gamers in Austin. Five years ago, UT game fanatics walked across Gua-

dalupe Street to blow off steam at Einstein's Arcade. Now they meet in empty lecture halls and dorms to discuss, play and create games.

Longhorn Awesome Gaming started as a Hill Country Bible Church UT group but has since broadened its focus to bring together all UT students who love gaming, regardless of their background or religious interests.

"Since I've always enjoyed video games, I figured I could get along with other people who did as well," said Taylor Schilling, founder and ex-president of the group. "We started out by going to other group events, like the [Electronic Game Developer Society] meetings [and] Guitar Hero tournaments in

the honors quad. The following spring, we started playing with the idea of forming our own group. Eventually we got organized and proactive enough to make [Longhorn Awesome Gaming]."

Like board games and sports, which Longhorn Awesome Gaming members also play together, video games can often breed highly competitive environments that could work against the group's mission to "pwn social barriers and allow people to build relationships over a common interest," but the group feels they have found ways around this issue.

"I remember the first time we played Capture the Flag in 'Halo 3,'" said Jeff Saniuk, Longhorn

Awesome Gaming's current president. "The teams were arguably super lopsided, and the game turned out to be a miserable affair, with one team getting absolutely obliterated. We've gotten better about balancing teams in competitive game types because tempers can and have flared. Otherwise, we stick to a host of goofy, relaxed game types such as 'Infection' and 'Juggernaut' where, in my opinion, everyone's a winner because it is trashloads of fun."

While Longhorn Awesome Gaming members are happy enough to be able to play games, the Electronic Game Developer Society members (EGaDS, as they call themselves) hope to some-

day design games for a living. For now, they'll settle for making free games with the hope of landing a summer internship. EGaDS meet twice a week to discuss and design games, often pulling in designers from local game companies to offer advice.

"Every week, we try to get industry speakers here from developers in Austin from a variety of disciplines: programming, art, producers, stuff like that," EGaDS President Ruben Rangel said. "We try to educate our members in their respective areas and tell them how they need to prepare to get into the industry as soon as they

PWN continues on page 12

Banned practice focuses on inner peace, moral health

Practitioners of Chinese meditation battle history of persecution, oppression

By Victoria Heckenlaible
Daily Texan Staff

Meditation, inner peace and energy have turned into health-culture catchphrases, but for many in the United States and China, the phrases are a reminder of a large, persecuted practice — Falun Dafa.

Falun Dafa started as a qigong, a Chinese meditative practice promoting health. The founder, Li Hongzhi, saw a flaw in mainstream qigong practices; the exercises emphasized physical health while ignoring moral health. So, Hongzhi instated three ideals in his practice: truthfulness, compassion and forbearance.

"Falun Dafa brings more [of] the heart-mind character together," said Greg Semple, an Austin resident and five-year practitioner of Falun Dafa. "The whole system is brought together to be healthy."

On July 22, 1999, the Chinese Communist government outlawed Falun Dafa for teaching fallacies and disturbing local peace. Practitioners began to be harassed, tortured and imprisoned. Just six years earlier, the government had helped popularize the exercise at a health expo, but when tens of thousands flocked to a movement with a spiritual emphasis, the Chinese government changed its mind.

"Some truths can only be perceived [from a spiritual angle]," Semple said. "[There is] not a conflict between Falun Dafa and science — rather, different purposes."

The Chinese government did not recognize this spiritual angle of life and instead declared Falun Dafa as illegal, punishable by im-



Stephanie Meza | Daily Texan Staff

Austin resident Angel Zhou practices a Falun Dafa exercise intended to strengthen supernatural powers. Zhou uses Buddhist mudras, or hand signs, that convey spiritual gestures.

prisonment and torture. The government saw Falun Dafa as a superstitious practice.

The five exercises are designed to channel an energy called "qi." Each hand motion purposively pushes the energy in, out or around the body. The different steps cause different effects on the body, and ultimately upon completion, brings a practitioner closer to the ideal state.

Every Sunday morning, Austin practitioners congregate by Lake Austin to seek moral and physical cultivation. A cheap speaker sounds the imperial Chinese gong, and a crisp male voice instructs young children and ambiguously aged adults to take the first stance — Liangshou Jieyin.

The members place their palms on top of each other, thumbs touching, creating an oval. They keep the elbows and underarms open to allow the energy to flow throughout the body.

Practitioners continue through the five sets as dedicated joggers

and Sunday walkers pass by, not expecting that this benign community has connections with prisoners in Chinese government detention centers.

Among those imprisoned is UT civil engineering alumna Danielle Wang's father, Zhiwen Wang. Zhiwen Wang, then a railroad engineer, became outraged by the Chinese government's violation of the practitioners' rights. He advocated through local petitions and newspapers, until their apathy drove him to lobby high-ranking Chinese officials in Beijing.

His persistence led to imprisonment, followed by torture. Since Zhiwen Wang's 1999 detention, Danielle Wang works tirelessly to free her father, petitioning U.S. politicians and human rights activists. Her now 60-year-old father is still imprisoned in China.

Having moved to the United States last year, Benson Yu, a

DAFA continues on page 12

Drugs not a factor in Haim's death

By Robert Jablon

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Actor Corey Haim died from pneumonia complicated by an enlarged heart and narrowed blood vessels, while drugs found in his system played no role in his death, the Los Angeles County coroner said Tuesday.

Haim, 38, died of natural causes from "community-acquired pneumonia" that damaged his lungs, according to an autopsy report.

Low levels of eight drugs, including both prescription and over-the-counter medications, were found in his system along with marijuana, coroner's spokesman Craig Harvey said.

"But nothing was at a level that would have contributed to his death," Harvey said.

They included tranquilizers and some common cold and flu medications, such as ibuprofen and a cough-suppressant, the report said.

Haim, who had struggled with drug problems throughout his life, died March 10 after collaps-

ing in his mother's apartment. Haim was ill with flu-like symptoms before his death, and police said he was taking over-the-counter and prescription medications.

"The pneumonia is what killed him," Harvey said.

California Attorney General Jerry Brown said in April that Haim employed "doctor shopping" to obtain 553 prescription pills in the two months before his death. Brown called Haim — the star of 1980s films such as "The Lost Boys" and "License to Drive" — a poster child for prescription drug abuse. He said Haim obtained powerful sedatives such as Valium and Xanax and painkillers such as Vicodin and Oxycontin.

However, no Oxycontin was found in his body, Harvey said. He noted that Haim's heart was abnormally large and factored in his death.

"His heart was 530 grams. The average normal heart weighs 300 grams," Harvey said.

Haim also had damaged lungs and arteriosclerosis of his coro-

nary arteries, with some vessels 50-percent and even 75-percent blocked. Haim also had an enlarged liver.

Harvey said it was unclear how long Haim had suffered from the medical problems or the pneumonia or whether earlier treatment might have saved him.

The report said that Haim had been feeling ill two days before his death and had a fever and severe cough. The report said he stayed in bed all day March 9 and his mother gave him tea, vegetable soup, Robitussin, Tylenol, Advil and Zophren. He appeared disoriented and collapsed to his knees at about 12:30 a.m. the next day.

"His mother helped him back into bed. His body began to shake in all directions and his eyes rolled back. His mother called 911," according to the report's synopsis.

He stopped breathing and his mother performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation until paramedics arrived. Haim was pronounced dead in an emergency room at 2:15 a.m.

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O'Brien elected to Kennedy Library Foundation

BOSTON — Late-night TV talk show host Conan O'Brien is joining the board of directors of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation.

Board Chairman Kenneth Feinberg announced Tuesday that the former NBC "Tonight" host and comedian was among six new members elected.

The Brookline native and Harvard graduate joins a group that includes Viacom Inc. Executive Chairman Sumner Redstone. The foundation also announced the election of Raytheon Chairman and CEO William Swanson as board vice chairman.

Each year, the foundation honors public servants with its "Profile in Courage Award," named for the president's 1957 Pulitzer Prize-winning book.

— The Associated Press



Don Ryan | Associated Press

Conan O'Brien is joining the board of directors of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation. The Brookline native and Harvard graduate joins a group that includes Viacom Inc. Executive Chairman Sumner Redstone.

H-Spot aims to improve college sex with how-to



By Mary Lingwall

Forty-nine percent of female students at UT fake orgasms, according to a study conducted by *H-Spot.com*, a burgeoning website dedicated to informing college-aged males about having better sex. H-Spot conducted surveys and in-depth interviews with sexually active students at UT, the University of Southern California, University of Notre Dame and Harvard University, to get a feel for the level of sexual satisfaction and confidence of college students.

Unsurprisingly, H-Spot found out that college sex isn't usually the best sex. According to the website, there are three main reasons why college students tend to settle for mediocre sex. One, "chicks lie" and fake orgasms to make dudes feel better; two, most mainstream sex guides "suck"; and three, "guys are idiots."

Instead of letting us flounder in a wasteland of unsatisfying sex, however, the young go-getters over at H-Spot decided to use their information to make college sex better — they produced their own how-to porn video, "How Players Do It."

So I watched it.

My overall assessment of "How Players Do It" was that it is pretty great. While it's not necessarily something I would watch for pleasure — with midday lighting and music reminiscent of an old-school video game — it is definitely a video that I would suggest to curious friends.

This is exactly what Paul Penfield and associates at H-Spot were thinking when they launched the project. After noting his own and others' dissatisfaction with the redundant and unhelpful sex advice proffered by popular men's magazines and an aversion to the over-dramatized and depressing look of mainstream sex guides geared